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TRADE WITH CANADA.

MR. W. B. ROBERTSON, a member of our staff, is now in Canada with the object of promoting the interests of this journal there, and to investigate the opportunities for British trade in Canada. Mr. Robertson is authorised to receive subscriptions and advertisements for THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

OUR SUMMER NUMBER.

THE next issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST will be the annual Summer number, and as there is an exceptional amount of printing to be done we begin to go to press with it immediately this issue is off. We must also finish printing a day earlier than usual; therefore, will advertisers please note that the Publisher cannot guarantee insertion of any advertisement received after Tuesday, July 26?

They should not miss having an announcement of some kind in it, and the more striking the better.

Advertisements for the Coloured Supplement will be received up to Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock—not later.

Correspondents and reporters are advised to send in their copy daily until Wednesday; after that by press-telegram.

Summary.

"EARLY CLOSING is worse than keeping open" say some Exeter chemists (p. 109).

THE PROPRIETRESS OF EAU DE BOTOT continues to suppress infringers in France (p. 112).

A NEW and much lower tariff for postal parcels to the colonies is to be adopted (p. 127).

A LIST OF THE PAPERS to be read at the British Pharmaceutical Conference is given on p. 123.

SPORTING events have been strong at pharmaceutical association meetings in America recently (p. 112).

THE APOTHECARIES' SOCIETY OF LONDON wish to be relieved of their physic-garden at Chelsea (p. 122).

FATALITIES from dirty feeding-bottles are reported. Tubed bottles are bad, says Dr. G. E. Stewart (p. 103).

A CORONER has spoken rather severely about a chemist's wife prescribing a teething-powder for a child (p. 109).

THE CONSTITUENTS OF PODOPHYLLUM have given rise to a controversy between Professor Dunstan and Dr. F. B. Power (p. 127).

A WINDSOR CHEMIST'S ASSISTANT has supplied tincture of nux vomica in mistake for laudanum with a fatal result (p. 110).

THE PROCEEDINGS in the House of Lords on the third reading of the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill are reported on p. 142.

THE KENSINGTON MAGISTRATES regard the supply of milk of sulphur for precipitated sulphur by a drug company as a serious case (p. 119).

A PORTRAIT of Mr. Henniker Heaton, the penny-post man, is given on p. 122, and one of Dr. Kingsbury, the hero of the recent will case, on p. 133.

MR. GLYN-JONES'S lime-water defence has moved the Poplar analyst to state on the certificate of a new case that lime-water is liable to decomposition (p. 118).

COMMENTS on the proposal to prevent companies infringing the Pharmacy Act, and on the case for the companies as presented by Mr. Boot, appear on p. 124.

A CHEMIST COUNCILOR has persuaded the Warwickshire County Council to give reasonable time before prosecuting chemists in regard to variations from the B.P. 1898 standard (p. 108).

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS are complaining of the severity with which the new proprietary tax is being enforced. They have to pay on the bulk and on the retail parcels (p. 112).

WE have received a good response to our article on the spectacle-trade, and refer on p. 126 to the present view which the Spectacle Makers' Company take of direct pharmaceutical representation on the committee.

DR. KARL DIETERICH deals with the balsams, resins, and similar products in the new British Pharmacopœia, expressing the opinion that the British Pharmacopœia is better than the German on these (p. 129).

MEETINGS of the Chemists' Associations of Brighton, Halifax, Nottingham, Inverness, and Exeter, called to oppose the Poisonous Substances Bill, are, in view of the abandonment of the measure, briefly reported (pp. 110 and 122).

THE HOUSE OF LORDS has decided that "Solio," applied to photographic papers, is an invented word, and that an invented word is not invalid as a trade-mark if it indicates the quality and nature of the goods (p. 116). This is a novel view, which we discuss on p. 125.

OPIUM forms one of the outstanding features of the drug-markets this week. Its present position is discussed on p. 126. The cinchona-sales were small on Tuesday, but prices were maintained. Scarcity in some drugs has been relieved by arrival of new crops. The drug-sales on Thursday were small, and passed off quietly (p. 137).

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

British Medical Association.

The annual meeting of this Association will be held in Edinburgh next week. The McEwan Hall has been reserved for the principal meetings of the Association, and the classrooms of the University Medical School for the sectional meetings. Business commences on Tuesday, when Sir Thomas Grainger Stewart, M.D., the President Elect, will deliver his address. The programme submitted is one of the lengthiest and most important ever drawn up by the Association, and the meeting is expected to be a record one. The usual annual museum will be held in the Drill Hall, Forest Road, opening on Tuesday. We observe from the report of the Council that the Association now numbers 17,746 members. The revenue of the past year amounted to 40,433*l.* and the expenditure to 36,973*l.* One of the most important pieces of business done by the Association during the year was the purchase of the freehold premises occupied by them at 429 Strand, W.C. The purchase-price was 79,000*l.*, of which 41,000*l.* was paid in cash, and the balance remains on mortgage for ten years at 3-per-cent. interest.

Sugar-beet.

Sir John Bennett Lawes and Sir Henry Gilbert have recently concluded a series of experiments upon the cultivation of sugar-beet in this country. Their results do not give any hope of beet being successfully and profitably grown in this country so long as sugar remains at its present low price, and if ever the cultivation is commenced it will be necessary to be exceedingly careful in the selection of the cultivation districts, and, of course, the factories must be placed as near as possible to the fields of production. A full report of the experiments has been printed in the *Journal* of the Royal Agricultural Society.

The Conway Chemical-works.

The agitation against the proposed erection of a chemical-works near Llandudno still continues, and on July 15 a further indignation meeting, which was largely attended, was held at the Guildhall, Conway, under the presidency of the Mayor of the town. Resolutions were unanimously passed protesting in the strongest possible manner against the erection of any sort of chemical-works, and calling upon all local authorities to combine together and take their share financially and morally in assisting the Rural District Council in their opposition to the scheme.

Saltpetre-poisoning.

On June 18 a woman named Mills died at Tunbridge Wells after eating tinned salmon, the death being at first attributed to ptomaine-poisoning. An analysis of the contents of the stomach was made, however, by Dr. Stevenson, and at the adjourned inquest on July 13 the Government analyst stated that he had found 16 gr. of nitrate of potassium in the viscera and contents, and the *post-mortem* appearances were those met with in cases of nitre-poisoning. In a tumbler which he had examined he found over 1 oz. of large crystals of nitre. Smaller crystals, which had crystallised from some liquid, adhered to the sides of the glass. Another glass was soiled with milk, from which crystals of nitre had separated as the milk dried up. The cause of death, in his opinion, was due to poisoning by saltpetre, taken in mistake for Glauber or Epsom salts. A verdict of death from misadventure was returned.

Hard Labour for the "Change" Thief.

The man George Vallance, whose case was referred to in the *C. & D.* last week, was up again on July 16 before the Reading Borough Bench, charged with attempting to steal 6*l.* and certain articles from Mr. J. A. Powell, chemist, St. Mary's Butts, by means of a trick. He was further charged with stealing 9*l.* and several articles from Mr. E. Cardwell, pharmaceutical chemist, Minster Street. No

evidence was given in Mr. Powell's case, that of Mr. Cardwell being proceeded with instead. Detective-Inspector Gentle stated that after the prisoner left Mr. Powell's shop he visited the establishment of Mr. Cardwell, where he succeeded in obtaining 9*l.* and various articles by means of a similar trick to that practised on Mr. Powell. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, but the police gave him a bad character, and he was sentenced to one month's hard labour.

Fatal Feeders.

At Fulham Cross, on July 13, Mr. C. Luxmoore Drew investigated the circumstances attending the deaths of two children, aged 12 months and 4 months respectively, at a nursing-home at Fulham. The evidence given showed that the child in each case, after being fed, was seized with sickness, followed by severe diarrhoea and convulsions, death ensuing a few hours afterwards. Dr. G. E. Stewart, who had attended both cases, attributed the deaths to summer diarrhoea, set up by fermentation of the milk through using feeding-bottles with rubber tubes. There should be no rubber tubes to feeding-bottles, said the doctor, as it is impossible to keep them clean. These tubes have been the cause of hundreds of deaths. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes in each case.

Food and Drug Inspectors and the B.P.

At a meeting of the Incorporated Society of Inspectors of Weights and Measures, held at the London County Council Hall, Spring Gardens, on July 15, a paper was read by Mr. Samuel Smith on "Drugs and their Relation to the Food and Drugs Act." An exhaustive account of the legislation in relation to the sale of drugs and their inspection was given, and the new British Pharmacopoeia was incidentally referred to. Mr. Smith recommended that no prosecutions be undertaken on the new B.P. standards until next year. He also dealt briefly with the position of inspectors under the Food and Drugs Act with reference to prosecutions and the sealing of samples. The paper was followed by a short discussion.

Warwickshire and the Pharmacopoeia.

At the quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire County Council, held on Tuesday, Councillor Hollick (chemist and druggist, Bunbury Street, Birmingham) pointed out that the sudden substitution of the new for the old Pharmacopoeias would probably cause injustice to the retailer and danger to patients. He instanced *tr. rhei co.* in the preparation of which a few weeks ago a chemist was liable to be fined for the omission of saffron, and now was liable if he put it in. He also drew attention to the increase of morphia in *tr. chlorof. et morph.*, and asked the Chairman what a chemist should do if a physician wrote a prescription (having the old form in his mind) with a full dose of this tincture. "Was he to break the law or kill the patient?" He concluded by asking the Sanitary Committee to treat the chemist as a man of intelligence and rectitude, allowing him to discriminate whether he should use the old or the new B.P. He urged that a considerable time be allowed to transpire, so that the trade, the public, and the medical profession might familiarise themselves with the changes. Councillor Hollick was thanked by the Chairman (Mr. J. S. Dugdale, Q.C.) and by Alderman Evans, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, for having drawn the attention of the Council to the matter. The Council immediately elected him to serve on the Sanitary Committee, whose duty it is to administer the Adulteration of Food and Drugs Act, and, in a private interview with Dr. Bostock Hill, the county analyst, he received an assurance that for a reasonable time (understood to be a year) any samples that come up to the standards of the 1885 or 1898 B.P.'s would be allowed to pass. [It should be explained that Birmingham and Coventry are not in the administrative county.]

Competition not Wanted.

At a meeting of the St. Olave's Board of Guardians, held on July 13, Dr. Macnamara moved that notice be given to the Apothecaries' Society to determine the arrangement between the Guardians and the Society for the supply of drugs. He said the arrangement was perpetual, and unless this course was taken there could not be any competition in such supply. Mr. Ecroyd said that some years since the

arrangement was entered into with the Society in order to secure good-quality drugs. He suggested that the subject be referred to the Infirmary Committee for consideration and report, which was agreed to.

Exeter Chemists and the Half-holiday.

At the meeting of the Exeter Chemists' Association, held on July 14, and called principally to discuss the Poisonous Substances Bill, Mr. W. F. Pearce brought forward the question of early closing. He suggested that the chemists might adopt Wednesday as an early-closing day.

The President (Mr. D. Reid): It is a very vexed question.

Mr. Milton: I had quite enough of early closing on the last occasion.

Mr. Lake: My experience has been anything but favourable.

Mr. Milton: I should never do it again.

Mr. Lake: Nor I. I would not close on any consideration.

Mr. Rowsell said he found early closing was worse than keeping open.

Mr. Reid remarked that they were nearly worked to death before 8 o'clock on an early-closing day, and it was a considerable strain on him and his assistants.

Mr. Lake said it afforded an excellent opportunity for smaller towns to have a dig at them. When the last early-closing movement was being carried out he had several broad hints from his customers on the subject.

Mr. Milton said the movement would not be successful unless they had one recognised early-closing day. In Exeter there were two early-closing days a week.

Mr. Rowsell suggested that chemists might agree to close earlier of an evening; but several members replied that they were in the habit of closing about 8 o'clock, although others kept open until later. It was pointed out that a chemist desirous of closing at 8 o'clock was placed at a disadvantage when in business near another chemist who kept open late, because he was obliged to keep open later.

Mr. Pearce remarked that the chemists of Kingston-on-Thames were in the habit of closing from 2 to 6, but the members were of opinion that it would not answer in Exeter.

Mr. Milton said his assistants had instructions to keep open until 8, and he found that they did not lose much time.

The subject was eventually dropped.

Chemist's Wife Prescribes.

At the Kensington Town Hall, on July 12, Mr. C. Luxmoore Drew held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of an 8 months' old child, named Edward Street. Mrs. Street deposed that she fed the little one by bottle, using a mixture of fine oatmeal, milk, and water. On the day preceding the death the baby was not so well, and she took him to the chemist, and a teething-powder was given her by Mrs. Smith, the chemist's wife, who directed her to return on the following day. The baby had suffered from a slight attack of diarrhoea, and this was increased after the powder had been taken. She went to the chemist as directed, and he told her to call in a doctor at once. However, the child died at 4.15 on the following afternoon. Mrs. Smith corroborated the evidence of the last witness as to the sale of the powder, the Coroner remarking upon the danger occasioned by anyone but a medical man prescribing, as she had done for a child. Alfred Jason Smith, pharmaceutical chemist, 89 Princes Road, Notting Hill, also bore out Mrs. Street's statement, describing the powder as a mixture of calomel and sugar. The Coroner: Do you allow your wife to dispense in this way? I should certainly confine her to household duties if I were you, or you'll get into trouble? Witness: It is certainly an exceptional case, sir; it was done during my absence. Dr. Edward Cornaby, 81 Holland Park Avenue, deposed that death was due to exhaustion, brought about through malnutrition, caused by improper feeding. In answer to the Coroner, the doctor said there was nothing in the condition of the child to call for the administration of calomel. Verdict of death by natural causes.

Fining the Chemist.

Some amusement was afforded last week at the Marylebone Police Court by Mr. G. J. Knight (member of the St. Mary-

lebone Vestry), carrying on business as a chemist in Edgware Road, who appeared before Mr. Plowden to answer a summons taken out against his daughter under the muzzling order. The case having been formally proved by P.C. 154 D,

Mr. Knight, addressing that officer, said: I believe on that day you were suffering from slight extravasation below the orbit? (Great laughter.)

Mr. Plowden: You had better put it to him in intelligible language. If you must use such words give them their proper pronunciation. There is no such thing as extravasation—extravasation, please.

P.C. 99 D was then called, and corroborated the other officer.

Mr. Plowden: Are you suffering from "extravasation below the orbit?" (More laughter.)

"How that dog could be out at the time," said the father of the defendant, "I cannot say. He is a fat, harmless fox-terrier—(laughter)—and I think it is a case of mistaken identity. I have abundant witnesses, but it's hardly worth while having an adjournment," he added, when the Magistrate intimated that if in the end he decided against him the expenses would be considerably increased.

Mr. Plowden fined him 3s., with 2s. costs.

Instead of leaving the court to pay the fine, the father of the defendant persisted in remaining until he had taken from his pocket a handful of money, from which he selected a sovereign and a shilling, which he threw on to the solicitors' table, saying, "That is for the poor-box."

Mr. Plowden: There is still 5s. to pay. (Laughter.)

The New Bonus Scheme.

The Universal Premium Company opened their first establishment at 5 Westgate Arcade, Bradford, on July 18. There was no great rush on the opening day, although advertising on a large scale had been done, but there was a steady flow of people in small numbers, who were entertained to musical selections by an orchestra of six players. After the manager had explained to each person the intricacies of the system, stamp-books with 5s. worth of stamps were distributed, a large number of girls being also employed in taking the books from house to house. The company's directory shows the names of 562 shopkeepers engaged in various trades, but several names appear more than once, and it is reckoned that 400 will be about the total number of subscribing trades. Nearly all the leading traders seem to have held aloof from the combination. Only one chemist and druggist's name appears in the directory—that of Mr. T. H. Smith, of Winchill Bridge, Shipley.

A Clumsy Customer.

A lively quarter-of-an-hour was experienced on Sunday evening at the chemist's shop of Mr. Gourlay, Church Road, Lytham. A man, who at first said he was living in Lytham, and afterwards stated that he came from Blackpool, was driven up to the Market Hotel in a cab. He walked across the road to the chemist's shop, but he had no sooner got inside than he fell over into the window amongst a quantity of bottles of perfume, &c. He did considerable damage, and the police were called. Before he left the place he made some recompense for the damage he had done.

The Marylebone Dispensers.

On Monday, at a meeting of the Marylebone Board of Guardians, the Dispensary Committee recommended that the salary of Mr. James J. Smith, dispenser at the North Dispensary, be increased from 120*l.* to 140*l.* per annum by two annual increments, each of 10*l.*, he having been in the service of the Board nearly nine years without revision of salary. Mr. Brooke Hitchings, C.C., moved as an amendment that the salary be increased to 140*l.* at once, for Mr. Smith was an excellent servant. Mr. Warren, the chairman, agreed, and the amended resolution was carried unanimously. The same committee recommended that during the annual leave of absence of Mr. T. A. Clifford, dispenser at the South Dispensary, Mr. Frederick Eves, registered chemist, be employed as temporary dispenser for three weeks, at a salary of 3*l.* per week.

Trade Treats.

The employes of Messrs. W. Kemp & Son, Newcastle, had their annual outing on July 13, when a company of about sixty went by special train to Scarborough. A pleasant day

was spent, most of the principal places of interest in the neighbourhood being visited.

On the night of July 13, at the Crown Hotel, Brayford Head, Lincoln, Messrs. Tomlinson & Hayward, of the Mint Street Chemical-works, gave a dinner to the Lincolnshire shepherds attending the show with pedigree stock. About sixty sat down, and after a substantial repast a harmonious evening was spent. Mr. H. Wilson (in the chair), Mr. H. Durance (vice-chairman), and Mr. C. J. Hayward were present representing the firm.

Fires.

On July 16 a spark from a shaft caused an outbreak of fire at the Star Chemical-works, Western Street, Bow. The brigade arrived and got the fire under control before any serious damage was done.

A fire of a somewhat serious nature broke out on July 14 at the residence of Mr. Owbridge, chemist, Hull, at Cottingham. The damage was estimated at 300%.

A small fire broke out on July 13 on the premises of Messrs. Hirst, Brooke & Hirst (Limited), Leeds, but was extinguished before much harm was done. The fire, as in a similar case reported last week, was due to the focussing of the sun's rays through some glass upon the place where the fire began.

Fire broke out in a drying-stove at the Clayton Aniline Company's works, near Manchester, on July 18, but was extinguished by the fire-brigade before any considerable damage was done. One workman, however, was so seriously burned that he was removed to the infirmary. The origin of the fire has not yet been ascertained.

A small outbreak of fire occurred at Mr. Taylor's, chemist, 70 Great George Street, Leeds, on July 19. The fire, which was in the cellar and in close proximity to tanks of paraffin and methylated spirit, was quickly extinguished.

Society of Chemical Industry Dinner.

The annual dinner of the Society was held at Nottingham on July 14, under the presidency of Professor F. Clowes, D.Sc. About eighty members and friends were present.

Nux Vomica for Laudanum.

Mr. Marlin, coroner, held an inquiry on July 21 at the Royal Infirmary at Windsor respecting the death of Hannah Lucy Ireland, a married woman, aged 45. Mr. Ryland, solicitor, watched the proceedings. Mrs. Ireland, who suffered from insomnia, occasionally took laudanum in order to induce sleep. On Monday she went to the shop of Mr. J. G. Everett, chemist, for four-pennyworth of laudanum, and, it was alleged, received nux vomica in mistake. After taking some of this she became very ill, and after several attacks of convulsions she died in about two hours at the infirmary. Superintendent Armour thereupon went to the chemist's assistant, who is alleged to have supplied the poison in error, and told him that it was his duty to charge him with causing the death of the woman. Dr. Hale, who assisted at a *post-mortem* examination, was of opinion that death had resulted from strychnine-poisoning. Mr. Everett expressed his regret at the unfortunate mistake made by his assistant (Mr. McBride), who, he said, was one of the most careful chemists he had ever known. Mr. McBride also expressed his regret at the occurrence and his sympathy with the deceased's husband and family. The jury, after some deliberation, returned a verdict of manslaughter by misadventure.

Cricket.

Bolland (Hodgkinsons, Clarke & Ward) v. Davy Hill's. Played at Barley Lane, Tottenham, on July 9. Scores: Bolland, 83; Davy Hill's, 77.

Spirit for Chemical Manufacturers.

At the annual meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce, held at Salter's Hall on Monday, the Chemical Trade Section reported *inter alia* what had been done in regard to the spirit concessions. The Joint Committee appointed in 1896 to consider the law relating to spirits and the regulations thereunder as affecting chemical manufacturers had held several meetings. After considerable dis-

cussion, the committee made a number of recommendations, which it was agreed should be laid before the Inland Revenue authorities at Somerset House. A conference was accordingly arranged between the committee and the Chief Inspector of the Excise Department and Dr. Thorpe (the principal of the laboratory). The difficulties under which chemical manufacturers in this country laboured, as compared with the advantages enjoyed by their German and American competitors, were explained by members of the committee. The Chief Inspector pointed out the obstacles in the way of adopting the recommendations of the committee. He intimated that the Inland Revenue authorities would do everything in their power to encourage the chemical trade of this country, and suggested that the Committee might gather information which would enable him to take steps to meet their views. Further meetings of the committee had been held, and they were still collecting information and statistics. Information, however, had been received to the effect that, in consequence of the representations made to the Inland Revenue authorities by the Joint committee, certain concessions had been granted to chemical-manufacturers, which would place them on more equal terms with their foreign competitors. The adulteration of beeswax again came up for consideration, but in view of the fact that the new Pharmacopœia would be found to contain an improved and more satisfactory test regarding the purity of this article of commerce it was not considered necessary in the meantime to take any action.

More Meetings for Manchester.

The Manchester Pharmaceutical Defence Association have arranged for a series of meetings during the ensuing winter, at which papers of a popular rather than of a scientific character will be read and discussed.

Stealing a Chemist's Assistant's Bicycle.

At Lambeth Police Court, on July 20, Frank Henry Potter, described as a furniture salesman, was charged with stealing a safety bicycle, value 8/., the property of Henry Bartlett, a chemist's assistant. The prosecutor stated that he left his bicycle outside the Brixton Free Library on July 11 while he went inside, and when he came out he found the machine gone. Detective Hawkins said when arrested and charged with stealing the bicycle accused admitted his guilt. Prisoner was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

Brighton Association of Pharmacy.

A meeting was held at the A.B.C. rooms, King's Road, on July 14, Mr. W. H. Gibson (President) in the chair. The Poisonous Substances Bill was considered, and it was resolved to write to the Borough and County members of Parliament requesting their opposition to the Bill.

The question of the visit of the Conference in 1899 was discussed, and it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the President and Secretaries to do what was deemed best at this year's Conference at Belfast. Messrs. W. H. Gibson, C. S. Ashton, H. A. Costerton, W. W. Savage, Weston, and C. G. Yates were appointed delegates to the Conference.

It was decided to have an excursion on Wednesday, August 24, and that chemists and their friends be invited to attend. The details were left with the President and Secretaries.

It was resolved that four prizes be offered to students, and that Messrs. R. A. Cripps and C. G. Yates be asked to adjudicate at the examination.

Boric Acid in Milk.

The Sanitary Committee of Stockport Corporation has intimated that in future vendors of milk using boric acid for preserving milk will be prosecuted for adulteration, on the ground that the acid in full doses is an irritant to the digestive organs, especially of infants. Samples of milk recently taken in the town contained from 33 to 53 gr. of the acid per gal.

Unqualified Medical Assistants.

Mr. Logan (Harborough) is to ask the First Lord of the Treasury in the House of Commons on Tuesday next if he will intervene on behalf of the unqualified assistants, who, by the action of the General Medical Council, are and will be deprived of the means of obtaining a livelihood.

Irish News.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Pharmaceutical Assistants' Examination.—D. C. McDougall and R. Telford have passed.

Registered Druggist Examination.—C. R. McMullen has passed.

Pharmaceutical Licence Examination.—M. Campbell (T. J. Anderson and F. C. Guest, equal), J. Copithorne, P. E. Kelly, H. R. Rutherford, F. W. Warren, J. R. McKay, J. A. Bingham, and E. Forde have passed.

Eight candidates have been rejected.

Centenary Celebration.

The City Medical Hall in Armagh is one of the oldest business-houses in the county. It was established in 1798, so this year its centenary will be celebrated. It is under the management of Mr. W. C. McBride, M.P.S.I.

The Listowell Drug-contract.

Mr. P. Shine, Poor-law Guardian, who, as reported last week, moved an amendment to a resolution proposed at a meeting of the Guardians, reflecting on the quality of the drugs supplied by Messrs. P. A. Leslie & Co., of Dublin, has since addressed to the Board, and has published in the *Kerry Evening Post* as an advertisement, an apology to that firm for the aspersions and reflections made by him on the quality of their medicines, which he had ascertained there was no cause for.

The Local Man.

The Fermoy Board of Guardians met last week to examine tenders for the supply of drugs and medicines to the Union. Three tenders were received as follows:—The Cork Chemical and Drug Company, 90*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*; Mr. J. Broderick, Fermoy, 102*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*; and Messrs. O'Regan & Co., Tipperary, 138*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* The Chairman stated that the lowest tender was informal, as no definite prices were specified for fourteen items. This was therefore rejected, and the contract was given to the local man.

The L.G.B. Vigilant.

The Local Government Board have written to the Belfast Board of Guardians declining to grant an increase of salary to Messrs. Lunn, Moore, and Kirkpatrick, apothecaries to the Union.

At a meeting last week of the Abbeylisle Board of Guardians, a letter was read from the Local Government Board pointing out that the price of the British Pharmacopoeia ordered to be supplied for use in the dispensary must not be included in any claim of recoupment from the L.G.B. out of the parliamentary grant, and that the volume should be obtained through the drug-contractor. The Clerk, in reply to the Chairman, said Dr. Stoney had applied for the book, but he did not know what it would cost. An order was made to have the book supplied.

The Local Government Board have directed a sworn inquiry to be made into the circumstances under which the dispensary officer of the Kilrush Workhouse (Dr. John E. Foley) was appointed to that position. Specific charges of bribery and corruption in connection are brought by an *ex officio* Guardian against six of the existing Poor-law Guardians. Dr. Foley has meantime gone to Australia.

Scotch News.

Weed-killer by the Wayside.

On July 19 the Rev. James Thomson, minister of Arbroath Parish Church, with his wife cycled from the village of Comrie to Drummond Castle. On arriving at their destination Mr. Thomson felt very thirsty and fatigued. Observing what he thought was a barrel of water near the road he took a draught of it, but when too late discovered that it was an arsenical weed-killer. He was immediately seized with acute pain and vomiting. Assistance being obtained, he was conveyed to Crieff, and the services of Dr. Thom were

secured. At first there was hope of recovery, but after suffering great agony he died on the following day.

Defrauding an Examiner.

At Hawick Police Court, on July 18, John Irving, ware-houseman, Galashiels, was charged with defrauding Thomas Maben, pharmaceutical chemist, Hawick, by inducing him to give 15*s.* on the false pretence that the money was required to bail out of prison a brother of the accused. Irving promised to refund the money, and pleaded in extenuation that he was the worse for drink, but was sent to prison for fourteen days.

Edinburgh University.

At the University Court on July 18 Dr. Charles Hunter Stewart was appointed to the recently endowed chair of Public Health. Dr. Stewart was first trained as a pharmacist, attending lectures at the University. In 1880 he obtained the Hope prize scholarship, graduated B.Sc. in 1882, and M.B.Ch. two years later. In 1894 he took the degree of D.Sc., and has been engaged for some years in public-health teaching. A new laboratory is to be built to accommodate the new department.

South African News.

(From our Cape Correspondent.)

MESSRS. B. G. LENNON & Co. have opened a fine new store at Mafeking, three doors from their old premises.

MR. JOHN PEACOCK, a well-known South African pharmacist, passed away at his residence, Pretoria, S.A.R., on June 25. He was 53 years of age, and the cause of death was pneumonia.

FREIGHTS.—The Castle Mail Packet Company (Limited) have now notified African merchants at the Cape that they will meet the new "America to the Cape" line of steamers in the matter of freight. Cargo is carried from New York to African ports at about 30 per cent. below similar rates from London, and by the same line of vessels practically.

SPURIOUS ROSE'S.—The action brought by L. Rose & Co. (Limited), of London and Leith, against Mr. A. H. Thompson, of Beaconsfield, who it was said had refilled their bottles with lime-juice not made by them, resulted in an interdict being granted restraining the defendant from selling lime-juice or lime-juice cordial in Messrs. Rose's bottles, or in any bottles with labels comprising a colourable imitation of their design.

MESSRS. J. R. JONES & Co. (LIMITED), Pretoria, S.A.R., had a narrow escape of being burnt out on June 25. The fire originated and was confined to the department used to store benzine and turpentine, and the place was well alight by the time the brigade arrived on the scene. The damage, which is estimated at over 2,000*l.*, is covered by insurance. We note that the hose was laid on from the Government Buildings opposite the pharmacy, under the supervision of no less a personage than General Joubert, Vice-President of the Republic.

A CHEMIST OF GERMAN ORIGIN who arrived in South Africa from the United States about two years ago, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor at Port Elizabeth on June 23. The suicide, whose name is George R. Isbett, was engaged on his arrival by Messrs. Gardner & Co. for their Port Elizabeth pharmacy. After nine months' service the firm parted with him, and he went to Messrs. J. A. Willet & Co., and later on to Mr. I. L. Dredge. At the inquest it transpired that Isbett had sold a small quantity of cocaine to a woman, who died from its effects. For the sale the Colonial Pharmacy Board were taking steps to prosecute him, he not being a chemist and druggist registered in the colony. This, coupled with notice to leave which he had received from his employer, weighed heavily on his mind. The usual verdict was returned. Our correspondent is informed that Isbett belonged to a good German family at Frankfurt-on-Main. One of his brothers holds an important position in Merck's chemical factory at Darmstadt.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

M. ASTIER, the newly-elected pharmacist M.P., is about to give in his resignation as member of the Paris Municipal Council. M. Beuthelet (son of the famous savant, and also elected to the Chamber of Deputies) has already done so.

A SELF-DENYING ORDINANCE. — The members of the Pharmaceutical Union of the Aude Department have engaged themselves not to advertise prices in newspapers, by prospectus, or by posters, except for the specialities (patents) they put up themselves, and not to employ bicyclists or commissionaires to fetch prescriptions from clients' houses or special boxes.

NICE OLIVE OIL. — The Aix Tribunal has decided that the appellation "Nice olive oil" can only be legally used by the manufacturers and dealers established at Nice. A contract for "Nice olive oil" was declared nullified by the fact that the oil came from another region, and was forwarded and delivered by a person not established in business within the commune of Nice.

HARMONIOUS TASTES. — Mme. Helina Gaboriau broke the record last week by obtaining the degree of doctor of medicine. She obtained her pharmacist's diploma several years ago. This is in itself worthy of note, but is rendered the more remarkable by the fact that her husband is also both a pharmacist and a doctor. In France the former requires six years' study and the latter five years, making a minimum of twenty-two years for this married couple to prepare for the battle of life.

DISAPPEARANCE OF ANCIENT PARIS. — Hottot's pharmacy, one of the most curious shop-fronts in Paris, is just being pulled down; M. Boymond, the proprietor, having removed to modern premises in the Boulevard Haussmann. Sketches of the interior and exterior of the officine, and notes on its history, appeared in the *C. & D.* Summer number last year (July 31, 1897). There is now only one shop-front of this type known to exist in Paris, the one in the rue de Grammont, of which a sketch appeared in the same article.

EAU DE BOTOT. — Madame Charcot has obtained another conviction for the use of the name of Botot without her consent. M. Leroux, the defendant, pleaded that treaties had been passed with certain perfumers authorising them to use the name. The Seine tribunal held that this very fact of conceding the name under certain conditions proved that the name remained Madame Charcot's property. Barrière, the vendor, and Lervoux, the manufacturer, were accordingly condemned in costs, damages to be assessed.

M. SCHLAGDENHAUFFEN, director of the Nancy School of Pharmacy, has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Medicine. This election will be popular amongst French pharmacists, for M. Schlagdenhauffen has the reputation of a chemist of talent, and his work, though prolific, always bears a rigorous scientific stamp. He has the degree of doctor of medicine, having qualified at Strasbourg in 1852, and belongs to that patient, hard-working race of French Alsatian scientists which counts also Küss, Sédillot, Schutzenberger, and others. His speciality is toxicology, of which he is professor.

THE MARSEILLES PHARMACISTS' SYNDICATE have not yet terminated their differences with the local mutual aid societies, from whom they claim a sum equivalent to 6,000*l.* for illegal practice of pharmacy. This syndicate recently threatened a local herbalist with a prosecution, and he, to avoid publicity, consented to pay them the maximum amount of the fine, 500*l.* (20*l.*) to which he was liable, in order to keep out of court. The syndicate accepted his offer, and gave a receipt for the money, adding that "in consideration of this payment the syndicate agree not to prosecute in the matter of the said summons." Now they say they have proof of another infringement against the herbalist, and threaten him with another prosecution. He complains that this not fair play.

Notes from New York.

THE DANGER OF ANTI-FATS.

A prominent American actress died recently from some indefinite malady, and it is now asserted that her death was due to a too liberal use of an obesity-cure. She was in the habit of swallowing the nostrum in very liberal quantities.

THE DUTY ON COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE.

In the New York Supreme Court, last month, Messrs. Lehn & Fink won an appeal regarding the import-duty on cocaine hydrochloride, which the Customs assessed at 25 per cent. *ad val.* as a chemical salt. The importers claimed that it should be assessed at 50c. a pound as a medicinal preparation, and the Supreme Court has taken this view also.

PHENACETIN IN AMERICA.

Messrs. Schieffelin & Co., of New York, who, as agents for phenacetin, have been subjected to a good deal of worry on account of prosecutions of the retail trade by the patent-holders, are now freed from that, as their agency has terminated. The Elberfeld manufacturers have opened their own office in New York.

EASY ABOUT THE EXAMINATIONS.

In a recent issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST attention was called to unfairness at one of the college examinations, and the Editor in his English innocence asked in parentheses if someone would not be prosecuted. No, sir; we do not prosecute for a little thing like that here. We appoint a committee of three, just as the college did, and consider the question, and then report thus, as the college trustees did:—"We decide to allow Mr. So-and-so to enter for examination, as he was not actually detected copying, but only with a note-book open on the chair in which he was sitting."

STATE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

are being held about this time, and the degeneration of these into mere meetings for entertainment is more and more manifest. In many States the only means of securing papers of pharmaceutical interest at all is by offering prizes, and even then the attendance is almost *nil*, unless extensive entertainments are also provided. In the programmes of the Iowa and Tennessee meetings, which I enclose merely as illustrative of the rest, the principal part of the programme is devoted to a detailed account of the sporting events which will be held and a list of the prizes and donors. The Tennessee Association devotes only four lines to business session announcements, while four pages are devoted to sporting events, &c.

THE NEW AMERICAN STAMP-TAX.

Considerable surprise and dissatisfaction are being expressed at the wide interpretation of the new stamp-tax by the Inland Revenue authorities. According to the latest rulings, all chemicals and pharmaceuticals are subject to the tax if any proprietary claims are made for them. The presence on the label of the firm's trade-mark or monogram will suffice to render the preparation liable. All "synthetics," patented or trade-marked articles, must be stamped, and fluid extracts, pills, or pharmaceutical preparations of all kinds, even in bulk, if any directions which will "give information to the unlearned" appear on the labels. The directions to "specify So-and-so's make" also render the products liable to tax. Samples of all proprietaries for free distribution must be stamped according to value. Perfumery and toilet extracts sold in bulk must be stamped in proportion to the smallest sized package sold at retail. Thus, if a 1-oz. bottle of perfume is sold at 50c., a 10-gallon package must be stamped with a stamp of the value of 1280 times 1½c., the latter being the value of the stamp affixed to a 50c. article. Moreover, the tax has to be paid twice: once on the bulk package, and again when bulk is broken to sell at retail. The natural result of this interpretation seems to be that most manufacturers will alter all labels so as to render none of these articles liable to the tax.

Colonial and Foreign News.

THE VENEZUELA GOVERNMENT has issued a decree by which bisulphite of lime, which is largely used in the sugar cane industry, has been put on the free list on importation.

PHARMACIES IN ROSARIO.—The principal drug-house in Rosario is that of Demarchi, Parody & Co., who have a buying establishment at 42 Rue Bergere, Paris. All the other pharmacies and drug-shops are supplied from Buenos Ayres and the United States.

INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONGRESS.—We observe that the Organisation Committee of the Brussels Congress have had an audience of the King, to whom they presented a report of the proceedings, which he was pleased to accept and to express his satisfaction with.

GERMAN TRADE-MARKS, &C.—"Bynin," "Liquid Malt," and "Bynol" are trade-marks for the registration of which in Germany Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Limited), London, have made application. Mr. W. G. Whiffen, Battersea, has also applied for a patent for his process of making emetine.

DEUTSCHE APOTHEKER VEREIN.—The annual meeting of this Society will be held this year in Cologne, beginning on Monday, August 22, at 7 P.M., with a concert and reception in the Wallraff-Richartz Museum. The proceedings will be continued daily, with sociality interspersed, until Thursday, August 25. Amongst the arrangements we notice a visit to Stollwerck's cocoa-works.

DUTY ON CONCENTRATED INFUSIONS.—The Auckland (N.Z.) Chemists' Association are agitating against the charge of 16s. per gal. on concentrated infusions and decoctions, instead of 6s. per lb., as is charged for weak tinctures and medicinal preparations authorised by the Pharmacopœia. An influential deputation of the trade will interview the Secretary for Customs, and object to the excessive duty.

NEW JAPANESE TARIFFS.—The Board of Trade have received a notice from the Foreign Office that, according to the latest reports received from H.M. Minister at Tokio, the date at which the new Japanese tariffs will come into force still depends on the ratification of the treaty between Japan and Austria-Hungary. It is also stated that the Japanese Government will give three months' notice of the application of the tariffs.

BIG FAILURE IN CALCUTTA.—One of the oldest and largest firms of indigo-brokers in Calcutta, Messrs. William Moran & Co., suspended payment on June 28. The liabilities amount to 26 lacs of rupees, and the assets are estimated to be more than enough to cover the liabilities, but are not immediately realisable. Mr. L. C. Baines, an old member of the firm, has undertaken to endeavour to keep the business together, under the title of Baines & Co.

THE GERANIUM-OIL CASE.—Judgment was delivered on June 28 at the Appeal Court, Colombo, in the case in which Messrs. Volkart Brothers, of Galle, sued a native merchant for the recovery of Rs. 10,098 as damages for breach of a contract to supply plaintiff with citronella oil, particulars of which were given in our issue of July 2 (page 30). In the result, the judgment of the Appeal Court was set aside, and the judgment of the District Court in favour of the plaintiffs was restored without costs, Mr. Justice Lawrie dissenting.

CHEMIST'S ASSISTANT CATCHES BURGLARS.—Mr. Lionel Nell, in the employ of Mr. Rose, George Street, Sydney, N.S.W., was instrumental in capturing four burglars. Mr. Rose's pharmacy is an all-night one, and whilst Mr. Nell was in charge he saw four men acting suspiciously at an hotel-door. The police were called and one man arrested by a constable, while Mr. Nell covered two others with a revolver until help arrived. Another man escaped, but was arrested later. The judge and jury at the June Sessions, where the case was tried, complimented Mr. Nell.

BUSINESS CHANGES.—Messrs. Cargills (Limited), of Colombo, have purchased the business lately carried on by Messrs. McLaren & Co., at Nuwarya Eliya. This branch will be under the management of Mr. G. Dow, and Mr. Buchanan will have charge of the drug and dispensing

department—Mr. Llewellyn Maddock, who has been manager of the Kandy branch of the Colombo Apothecaries' Company, has resigned, and will leave Ceylon in a few weeks. He will be succeeded by Mr. J. L. MacGregor, lately with Messrs. Laffyatt & Co., a well-known firm of photographers in Gloucester.

INDIAN OPIUM IN CHINA.—Consul-General Mansfield, in his report on the trade of Shanghai, says that the foreign opium-trade in China is slowly dying a natural death, and that in a few more years the Indian drug will at best be an exotic luxury, consumed only by a few rich connoisseurs. Native opium, however, is being used in largely-increasing quantities, and the quality is steadily improving, and as the native article is so much cheaper than the foreign drug, competition is becoming impossible.

GERMAN PHARMACY.—Some high-class English pharmacists occasionally inform us that it is a good thing to have State protection of pharmacy, as they have in Germany; but there is seldom anything said about the fact that the pharmacist must strictly confine himself to his own business, and there is occasionally trouble in knowing what that business exactly is. For example, one might fancy that it is a strictly pharmaceutical thing to sell corn-plaster, but a Frankfort apotheker who has done so has just been fined 10m. for stepping beyond his own province into that of a physician, and a firm in Glaugau have been similarly fined for selling an asthma-powder.

ITALIAN OLIVE OIL.—Reporting on the trade of Taranto, the British Consul there states that the olive crop last year was deficient in the yield of the finer oil for cooking and eating purposes, though it gave an excellent oil for burning, such as is in demand in Russia. The exports for 1897 amounted to 1,744 tons, valued at 49,451*l.*, whereas in 1896 only 338 tons, with a value of 4,300*l.*, were exported. Prices were lower on account of the quality and foreign competition and the hope of a still better harvest for 1897-98. This hope, however, has been dissipated by the failure of the last crop, which will also mean a diminution of the export-trade during the current year.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CHEMISTRY.—This Congress will open in Vienna on Wednesday next, July 27, and will continue for a week. In the Pharmaceutical Section our old friend, the International Pharmacopœia, will come up in a modified and more rational form. It will be proposed to introduce into all Pharmacopœias statements of the physical and chemical properties and tests for purity of medicines, to introduce uniform methods for the preparation of strong remedies, and uniform standards of strength. Also to introduce uniform methods of determining the amount of active substances contained in surgical dressings; the nature of the tests to be employed for estimating the value of new serotherapeutic preparations, and the precautions to be taken before such preparations are recognised as suitable for use in medical practice; and the general qualities of medicinal wines.

NOTES FROM MEXICO.—In Mexico there are two distinct branches of the drug-trade—the Botica, where the trade consists almost entirely in the dispensing of prescriptions, and the Drogueria, for the sale of drugs only, and where no medicines are allowed to be compounded or prescriptions dispensed. In the city of Mexico there is one up-to-date pharmacy, the "Botica Itarvide," where not a single patent-medicine advertisement is displayed. These goods are replaced by the proprietor's own articles. This pharmacy is at the front of the 300 in the city.—A company has recently been started to make condensed milk on a large scale. It has a capital of \$150,000.—Ginger grows well in the States of Puebla, Guerrero, and Chiapas, and is believed to have been introduced by Francisco de Mendoza about the middle of the sixteenth century. The planting-season is March or April, the cuttings being set in the ground at a distance of 12 to 18 inches apart. The plant blossoms in September or October, and by January is ready for harvesting, which consists in merely taking the tubers out of the ground. The curing-process is also simple and inexpensive. According to official calculations the product under favourable conditions should be 4,000 lbs. to the acre. The cost of cultivation amounts to from 1½ to 2 centavos per lb., and freight does not exceed \$1 per 100 lbs.

New Companies & Company News.

"AMIRAL" SOAP SYNDICATE (LIMITED).—Capital 20,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To manufacture, sell, and deal in soap, perfumery, fancy goods, drugs, chemicals, &c.

SOBERVINA (LIMITED).—Capital 20,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire, develop, and turn to account the secret process of Manuel Lopez for the manufacture of a non-intoxicating beverage called "Sobervina."

ANGLO-RUSSIAN CONTRACT COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 50,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire, own, and work certain oil-bearing lands, comprising about 200 desatines, on the estates known as Tupskutan and Ullu Ishnez, in Russia.

KINSEY ACETYLENE-GAS COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 2,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire, own, and work Henry Kinsey's patent for improvements in the manufacture and storage of acetylene-gas. Registered without articles of association. Registered office, 23 Temperance Hall Buildings, Swansea.

PANSY SOAP (LIMITED).—Capital, 60,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares (20,000 *l.* per cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To adopt an agreement with George H. Longuehay, and to acquire, develop, and turn to account a secret process for the manufacture of an antiseptic and inodorous soap, shampoo-wash, and other toilet requisites.

PAUL GREENWOOD & Co. (LIMITED).—Capital 2,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of a mineral and aerated-water manufacturer carried on by Paul Greenwood at Elizabeth Street, Burnley. Paul Greenwood is the chairman and managing director, with 2*l.* 10*s.* per week. Registered Office, 5 Elizabeth Street, Burnley.

RICHARD WHEEN & SONS (LIMITED).—Capital 200,000*l.*, in 5*l.* shares (20,000 *l.* per cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire the business carried on at Deptford by Richard Wheen, Francis Wheen, and Charles Wheen, as "Richard Wheen & Sons," and to manufacture, buy, sell, and deal in soap, candles, tallow, oil, glycerin, chemicals, starch, paints, dyes, colours, &c.

FRASER RIVER OIL AND GUANO SYNDICATE (LIMITED).—Capital 30,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire certain patents for the manufacture of fish oil and guano-fertiliser from fish-offal, and to manufacture, sell, and deal in oil, manure, glue, gelatine, and chemical substances. The first directors are Major-General G. de la P. Beresford, A. G. Edwards, and D. G. Spiro.

WENLOCK ELECTROLYTIC COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 120,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement with the Wednesfield Chemical Syndicate (Limited), to acquire, develop, and turn to account any patents relating to the production, distribution, and use of electricity, and to carry on the business of chemical and manure manufacturers, distillers, dye-makers, metallurgists, &c.

GUM TRAGASOL SUPPLY COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 100,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire certain patents owned by the Gum Tragasol Supply Company, of Liverpool and of Hooton, Cheshire, for the manufacture of a useful gum or gummy compound, and to manufacture, sell, and deal in gum, size, cake, feeding-stuffs, sweetmeats, water-proof material, &c. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors.

ERITH LEAD COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital, 20,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To adopt agreements with the Lead Oxide Company (Limited), and the Scottish Oil and Chemical Company (Limited), and to carry on the business of smelters, lead and lead-oxide manufacturers, chemists, drysalts, oil and colourmen, &c. The first directors are Frederic Lennard (Chairman), Lee Bakc, Andrew C. J. Charlier, Arthur Heiron, and Rowland Matthews. Registered office, 30 Moorgate Street, E.C.

C. W. WATERS (LIMITED).—Capital 60,000*l.*, in 2,400 6*l.*-per-cent. cumulative preference shares of 10*l.* each and 7,200 ordinary shares of 5*l.* each. Objects: To acquire the business carried on by Charles W. Waters at 72 Great

Eastern Street, E.C., and to manufacture, sell, and deal in methylated polishes, varnishes, gums, shellacs, chemicals, aniline colours, glues, gelatines, &c. Charles W. Waters to be governor with 600*l.* per annum. Registered office, 72 Great Eastern Street, London, E.C.

ROBERTS (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, opticians, and makers of and dealers in patent and proprietary articles. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—John Roberts, 119 Peel Road, Bootle, chemist's assistant; Thomas Roberts, 53 Holyhead Road, Upper Bangor, butcher; Theophilus Pritchard, joiner, Wm. H. Pritchard, butcher, and Owen Pritchard, butcher, all of Mona House, Llanfair; Ezra Jones, Bryn Myfyr, Wrexham, collier. Registered without articles of association.

ISO-HOMŒOPATHIC INSTITUTE (LIMITED).—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire from A. Whiting the "Iso-Homœopathic Institute," at New Road, Linslade, Bucks, and to manufacture, sell, and deal in isopathic, homœopathic, and other medicines. The first subscribers are:—A. Whiting, professional homœopathist (100), and Mrs. M. Whiting (10), of Shirley House, Linslade, Bucks; Mrs. A. Howe (1), W. Howe, grocer (1), and Mrs. M. A. Howe (1), of 34 New Road, Linslade, Bucks; Mrs. S. Whiting, 32 New Road, Linslade (5); J. Howe, Prestonkirk, East Lothian, bachelor (1). The subscribers are to fix the number of the directors, and to nominate the first. Qualification and remuneration as the company may decide.

W. B. FORDHAM & SONS (LIMITED).—The directors have declared the usual interim dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, for the six months ended June 30 last.

BRITANNIA WORKS (1898) COMPANY (LIMITED).—An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Britannia Works (1898) Company (Limited), which carries on business at Ilford as makers of photographic apparatus, was held at Winchester House, E.C., on Tuesday. Major-General Blake presided, and moved a resolution striking the date "1898" out of the registered title of the company, which in future will be known as the Britannia Works Company (Limited), and this was agreed to.

HENRY LAMPLOUGH (LIMITED).—On July 20 the thirteenth ordinary general meeting of Henry Lamplough (Limited) was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, Mr. Thomas F. Lynch in the chair. In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, the Chairman said he had not so much pleasure in offering this year's dividend as last, as it was only 7½ per cent. The sale of the article, however, was mainly due to the weather, and owing to the cold autumn of last year and the spring of this year it was not surprising. The figures of the company were remarkable, as if it was worked out it would be found they were working with only a working capital of 643*l.*, and as their stock in hand was 2,840*l.* they came to the remarkable fact that they were working at a *minus* of 2,200*l.* The warmer weather had considerably increased their sales, and there was every hope of showing a much larger dividend next year if the weather lasted. Mr. Vamtramp seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the Chairman subsequently remarked that they had power to call up more capital if necessary. They had to consider that people whom they might dignify by the names of rivals were extensive advertisers, and this had to be closely watched, as it was possible that this might in the long run have an effect on their sales. He would like to have a consensus of opinion as to whether they thought it best to call up fresh capital or to let the sales go back through lack of advertising. Mr. Vamtramp urged that the Board should spend in advertising with a free hand, and they would be sure to have an ample return. Mr. William H. Gibson was re-elected to the Board.

"PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS."—"We have had your book for the short time it has been out, and have saved its value ten times over through hints contained therein, and expect to do so much more yet. It is much appreciated."—Mr. ERNEST J. PARRY, B.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S., 134 Upper Thames Street, E.C.

Trade Notes.

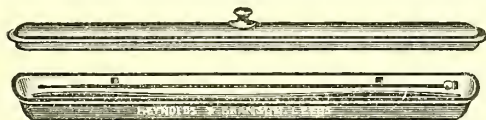
MESSRS. LEHN & FINK, New York, have been appointed sole agents for the United States for Messrs. George Allen & Co., Ampthill.

"SEVEN or eight a week," said Mr. Holloway, of Holloway's Coca-wine Company, in this office a few days ago, "is the number of new wine-retailers' licences we are paying for just now. We fix it up right through for our customers," he said, "and occasionally, when the order is big enough, we take for them a wine-dealer's licence, which, as you know, can be obtained without any formalities."

ZINC-OXIDE TABLOIDS are Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.'s most recent preparation. These are supplied in bottles containing one hundred 2-gr. tabloids. Zinc oxide has been administered with good results in the treatment of the summer diarrhoea of infants and adults, and in gastralgia, and it has proved serviceable in epilepsy resulting from peripheral irritation. The nervous tremors and unsteadiness of chronic alcoholism are sometimes relieved by zinc oxide, and it has been used successfully for whooping-cough and chorea.

NEW VASELINE.—The Chesebrough Manufacturing Company, 42 Holborn Viaduct, E.C., have introduced second qualities of vaseline, which are as good as some first qualities of petroleum-jelly now in the market. White, yellow, and red are offered. The white is not quite snowlike, but satisfies the Pharmacopœia requirements for white ointments. The quotations are for 1½-cwt. barrels, white, 58s. per cwt., yellow 24s. 6d., and red 19s. 6d. They are also supplied in tins (10 lbs., 25 lbs., and 50 lbs.) at proportionately higher rates. They are worth a trial.

A NEW CATHETER-DISH.—Messrs. Reynolds & Branson, of Leeds, ever intent on supplying useful surgical adjuncts, are manufacturing an enamelled dish for the reception of flexible catheters in daily use. It is designed by Mr. H. de Paiva B. Veale, L.S.A. It is sufficiently long to admit a catheter of ordinary length without flexion. The catheter



rests on two transverse ridges attached to the bottom of the dish, so that the antiseptic solution with which the dish is filled surrounds the instrument. Hitherto users of catheters have been compelled to keep them in an earthenware bowl or the like, so that this new dish meets a felt want.

Marriages.

CRANCH—ADAMS.—On July 10, at Dodbrooke parish church, Mr. W. J. B. Cranch, chemist and druggist, South Brent, to Miss E. M. M. Adams, elder daughter of the late Mr. J. H. Adams, chemist, Salcombe.

FORSTER—WIARDA.—On May 2, at Sydney, N.S.W., Adam Forster, Registrar of the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales, to Mrs. Wiarda, daughter of the late J. T. Smith, of Cape Town.

SAVORY—ARDING.—On July 6, at St. Mary's, Redcliffe, Bristol, by the Rev. W. A. Robins, Julius C. O'Brian Savory, youngest son of the late Charles H. Savory, to Ellen (Nellie), eldest daughter of the late Alfred Arding, of Bath.

SHIPKOFF—MILOSHEFF.—At Kazanlik, Bulgaria, on July 17, Mr. Theodore K. Shipkoff, of Kazanlik and New York, to Slava, daughter of Mrs. Anastasia M. Milosheff.

ZIMMERMANN—KURTZ.—On July 9, at St. Mary's Church, Shortlands, Kent, by the Rev. H. F. Woolley, M.A., Charles Moritz Zimmermann, eldest son of August Zimmermann, "Colonia," Bromley, to Elsa Emilia Kurtz, second daughter of Justus August Kurtz, "Hill House," Bromley, Kent.

Deaths.

JONES.—On April 15, Mr. Henry Jones, of the firm of T. Jones & Co., Sydney and Balmain, of sanguineous apoplexy. Mr. Jones served his apprenticeship in New Milford, South Wales, studied for the pharmaceutical examination at the Westminster College, London, in 1879, and passed his examination at Bloomsbury Square the same year. In 1883 Mr. Jones emigrated to Fiji, and had the management of his brother's business in Suva till 1886, when he opened a business in Levuka, but had the misfortune to be burnt out in 1889 while not covered by insurance. He went to New South Wales some nine years ago, and had been in charge of branch establishments for T. Jones & Co., at Orange, Randwick, and Balmain.

MCNEIL.—At St. John's, Newfoundland, on June 27, Mr. John McNeil, chemist and druggist, in his 57th year. Mr. McNeil was a native of Coupar Angus, Scotland, and served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Hamilton & Hardie, Dundee. At the age of 19 he went out to St. John's as an assistant to the late Mr. Thomas McMurdo, and very soon after was given sole charge of the business, which he worked up until it became the leading pharmacy in the island. He ultimately became a partner, and sole proprietor of the business when Mr. McMurdo died. Mr. McNeil was a capable pharmacist and a man of great business energy. His fellow-chemists in the island looked up to him as



their leader, and when the greater part of St. John's was wiped out by fire several years ago he, in spite of the fact that his own pharmacy was quite destroyed, lent a hand to several who had lost their all. It was apparent to Mr. McNeil's friends during the past few years that he was suffering from the results of the great physical and mental strain which he had gone through, especially during the past twelve years, and he visited the old country in the spring of last year in the hope of recuperating. He had so far recovered as to be able, when he returned, to send over to this country his elder son, Mr. T. M. McNeil, to study for the Major and Minor; but last Christmas Mr. McNeil, jun., was recalled to St. John's by cable, his father having suffered a relapse. Since then Mr. McNeil had been little in business. He is survived by Mrs. McNeil and a family of two sons and five daughters.

PUGH.—On June 30, at 52 High Street, Rhyl, N. Wales the wife of Ed. L. Pugh, chemist.

Legal Reports.

The "Solio" Trade-mark.

On July 15 judgment was given by the House of Lords (the Lord Chancellor, Lords Herschell, Macnaghten, Morris, and Shand) in the appeal of the Eastman Photographic Materials Company v. the Comptroller-General of Trade-marks. The latter had refused to register the proposed trade-mark of the applicant company, "Solio," for photographic paper. On November 6, 1896, Mr. Justice Kekewich supported the Comptroller's decision, and his order was confirmed on April 29, 1897, by the Court of Appeal. The Eastman Company had appealed to the House of Lords, and the case was argued before their Lordships on June 24 and 28.

Mr. Moulton, Q.C., and Mr. Kerly were counsel for the appellants; the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and Mr. Ingle Joyce for the Comptroller-General.

The Lord Chancellor, in the course of his judgment, said the law as to trade-marks before 1888 had given rise to considerable litigation. Section 64 of the Act of 1883 provided that a trade-mark must consist of or contain at least one of the following essential particulars:—Sub-section (c) "A distinctive device, mark, brand, heading, label, ticket, or fancy word or words not in common use." In 1887 a Commission was appointed to inquire into the duties, organisation, and arrangement under the Trade-marks Act so far as related to trade-marks and designs. It appeared by the report of the Commission that complaints had been made as to the working of the Act of 1883, and in that part of the report relevant to the present controversy it is stated that

The most difficult question which has arisen upon the enactment under consideration is to determine what may be properly regarded as "fancy words." Words are undoubtedly a most popular form of trade-mark, but some limit must obviously be put upon the words which an individual may be permitted to register and claim the exclusive use of. The expression "fancy word" is certainly not a happy one, and has naturally given rise to considerable differences of opinion as to its meaning. It is manifest that no one ought to be granted the exclusive use of a word descriptive of the quality or character of any goods. Such words of description are the property of all mankind, and it would not be right to allow any individual to monopolise them and exclude others from their use. Again, geographical words which can be regarded as descriptive of the place of manufacture or sale of the goods are open to obvious objections. One manufacturer or merchant cannot properly be allowed to prevent all his competitors from attaching to their goods the name of the place of their manufacture or sale. The mischief would not be the same where the person seeking to register was the first who had manufactured or sold the goods in the place the name of which he seeks to appropriate as a trade-mark. But there are objections to giving a monopoly even in that case, and to attempt to draw any such distinction would be likely to lead to difficulty and litigation. We think, therefore, that geographical names ought only to be permitted when they clearly could not be regarded as indicative of the place of manufacture or sale. We would add upon this point that we think that, where any English word would be rejected as not entitled to registration, no person ought to be permitted to register its translation into any other language. The question has been raised whether a word having the same sound as one entered on the register, though differently spelt and with a different meaning, should be registered. The question in such a case would seem to be whether the resemblance between the old mark and that applied for was such as to be calculated to deceive; if it was, it ought, of course, to be rejected.

The objection pointed out by the Commissioners was that a particular individual could not be permitted to take exclusive possession of any part of our language, and this objection appears to have been in the mind of the framers of the earlier statute when they made the phrase "fancy word" part of the definition of what might be registered as a trade-mark. It was the use of that phrase and its accompanying qualification which gave rise to much litigation; and I am certainly not disposed to hold that cases decided under that Act can have any bearing upon the construction of that part of the Act now under consideration, which was obviously intended as an alteration and amendment of the former Act. The present Act provides, among other things,

by section 10, that a trade-mark must consist of or contain at least certain particulars, the first of which is "an invented word or invented words." This word "Solio" is claimed to be an invented word, and it has been adjudged not to be an invented word, and apparently (though I think the association of the two things involves an incorrect construction of the statute) because it is a word which has reference to the character or quality of the goods. I think it is an invented word within the meaning of this statute. I know of no such word as "Solio" in any sense which would make it intelligible here, although it is an Italian word meaning a throne, and although it is a Latin word in the ablative case with the same meaning. Not much reliance, however, is placed upon the word having some meaning in a foreign tongue; but what is put is that it may have extracted from it some meaning in relation to the character or quality of the goods, because the letters "sol" may be understood to mean the sun. And it is true that Shakespeare in "Troilus and Cressida" speaks of our planet "sol," and that, inasmuch as the goods in question are photographic papers and sunlight is operative in producing impressions on photographic paper, it comes within the prohibition against using words which are distinctive of the character and quality of the goods in respect of which the word is sought to be registered. My answer is that "Solio" is not "sol" and "sol" is not "Solio." It certainly is a very strange thing that you should take three letters out of a word, and by the somewhat circuitous process that has been adopted here arrive at the conclusion that it is not an invented word, and that it does describe the character and quality of the goods. I desire to give my opinion with reference to the particular word and not to go behind it. I can quite understand suggesting other words—compound words, or foreign words, as to which it would be impossible to say that they were invented words—although perhaps never seen before, or that they did not indicate the character or quality of the goods, although as words of the English tongue they had never been seen before. Suppose a person were to attempt to register as a single English word "cheap-and-good," or even without taking so gross an example, using a word so slightly differing from an ordinary and recognised word as to be neither an invented word nor, avoiding the prohibited choice of a word, indicating character or quality. The line must be sometimes difficult to draw, but to my mind the substance of the enactment is intelligible enough, and the Comptroller has to make up his mind whether in substance there has been an infringement of the rule. Of course, also, words which are merely misspelt, but which are nevertheless in sound, ordinary English words, and the use of which may tend to deceive, ought not to be permitted. I am satisfied in this case to say that the word "Solio" is an invented word, that it does not indicate the character or quality of the goods, and that the decision of the Court of Appeal ought to be reversed.

Lord Herschell mentioned in his judgment that the ground upon which the Courts [below] proceeded was that the word "Solio" had reference to the character or quality of the goods, and was therefore incapable of registration. The Court of Appeal held itself bound by a previous decision of the same Court in the case of "*In re Farbenfabriken application*" (1 Ch., 1894, 645; 63 L.J. Ch., 257) to hold that an invented word could not be registered if it had any reference to the character or quality of the goods. The section [10 of the Act of 1883] to be construed provides that a trade-mark "must consist of or contain at least one of the following essential particulars." Then follow seven particulars. The last two of these are as follows:—(d) An invented word or invented words; or (e) a word or words having no reference to the character or quality of the goods, and not being a geographical name. These two particulars of which a trade-mark may consist were not to be found in the Act of 1883. On the other hand, "fancy word or words not in common use," which were amongst the essential particulars in section 64 of the Act of 1883, are not to be found in the substituted section. It had been held that they did not cover words that were descriptive, and the section had given rise to much litigation, and some divergence of judicial opinion. I cannot doubt, continued Lord Herschell, that this was the origin of the substitution. Mr. Justice North said he did not see how he could hold "Somatose" to be an invented word within sub-section (d), having regard

to the decisions with respect to such words as "Herbalin," "Washerine," and "Valvoline." All these decisions had reference to the provisions of section 64 of the Act of 1883 with regard to fancy words. In my opinion, none of the decisions upon that part of the original section have any bearing on the new provisions to be found in the substituted section, the purpose of which was, I think, to get rid of expressions which had occasioned much embarrassment, and of all the distinctions and decisions which had been founded upon them. Addressing myself, then, to the terms of the substituted section, I am unable to find any justification for qualifying the provision "(d) an invented word, or words," by the condition that they shall have no reference to the character or quality of the goods. By the words which introduce the section the particulars designated under the headings (a) to (e) are treated as separate and distinct. "A trade-mark must consist of at least one of the following essential particulars." What warrant is there, then, for transferring words found in any one of these particulars to any other of them? With all deference to the learned Judges who have thought otherwise, I can see none. It seems to me to involve an interpretation of the language used which is not its natural grammatical construction. In the *Farbenfabriken* case Lord Justice A. L. Smith said:—"It is impossible, I think, to hold that the Legislature intended that an invented word might be a word having reference to the character or quality of the goods, whereas a non-invented word might not. There would be no sense in so holding." I am unable to agree with this view. There seems to me to be the broadest distinction between the two cases. Under (c) any word in the English language may serve as a trade-mark. In these circumstances, it would obviously have been out of the question to permit a person to obtain a monopoly of the use of a word having reference to the character or quality of those goods. The vocabulary of the English language is common property; it belongs alike to all; and no one ought to be permitted to prevent the other members of the community from using for purposes of description a word which has reference to the character or quality of goods. If, then, the use of every word in the language was to be permitted as a trade-mark, it was surely essential to prevent its use as a trade-mark where such use would deprive the rest of the community of the right which they possessed to employ that word for the purpose of describing the character or quality of goods. But with regard to words which are truly invented words, words newly coined, which have never therefore been used, the case is, as it seems to me, altogether different; and the reasons which required the insertion of the condition are altogether wanting. If a man has really invented a word to serve as his trade-mark, what harm is done, what wrong is inflicted, if others be prevented from employing it, and its use is limited in relation to any class or classes of goods to the inventor? An invented word has of itself no meaning until one has been attached to it. But this circumstance does not seem to me to be any ground for qualifying with a condition not applied to them the terms "an invented word or words." In considering the case of an application to register a trade-mark under (d) the only question which, in my opinion, has to be determined is whether the word sought to be registered is an invented word. In one of the cases on this subject Lord Justice Kay said:—"There is extremely little invention in the matter." It may be that the word "Satinine," which was then in question, was objectionable on other grounds, but if the word be an "invented" one I do not think the quantum of invention is at all material. An invented word is allowed to be registered as a trade-mark, not as a reward of merit, but because its registration deprives no member of the community of the rights which he possesses to use the existing vocabulary as he pleases. It may no doubt sometimes be difficult to determine whether a word is an invented word or not. I do not think the combination of two English words is an invented word, even although the combination may not have been in use before, nor do I think that a mere variation of the orthography or termination of a word would be sufficient to constitute an invented word, if to the eye or ear the same idea would be conveyed as by the word in its ordinary form. Again, I do not think that a foreign word is an invented word simply because it has not been current in our language. At the same time, I am not prepared to go so far as to say that a

combination of words from foreign languages so little known in this country, that it would suggest no meaning except to a few scholars, might not be regarded as an invented word. Coming to the particular case under discussion, I cannot doubt that the word "Solio" is an invented word, unless it is to be regarded as the Italian word *solio*, which means a throne, in which case it has certainly no reference to the character or quality of photographic paper. If it is not to be so regarded, it has of itself no meaning. As I have said, I think it unimportant if it be an invented word, whether it has reference to the character or quality of the goods or not; but I think there is no such reference. It might occur to some minds given to etymology that *sol*, the Latin for sun, was a component part of it when they found it connected with photographic paper, but the same minds would equally find other root bases for the word if they found it connected with boots or agricultural implements. It seems to me to have no reference to the character or quality of the goods in the sense in which those words must have been used by the Legislature. I think the judgment appealed from ought to be reversed.

Lord Macnaghten was of the same opinion. Remarking on the trouble which the expression "fancy word" had given, he said:—"For these very troublesome words in the Act of 1883 the Act of 1888 substituted the expression 'an invented word or words.'" It made the substituted expression a separate, independent, and sufficient condition of registration. And now if a proposed trade-mark consists of or contains an invented word, or invented words, it is capable of registration. But the word must be really an invented word. Nothing short of invention will do. On the other hand, nothing more seems to be required. If it is an invented word, if it is "new and freshly coined," to adapt an old and familiar quotation, it seems to me that it is no objection that it may be traced to a foreign source, or that it may contain a covert and skilful allusion to the character or quality of the goods. I do not think that it is necessary that it should be wholly meaningless. The object of putting a restriction on words capable of being registered as trade-marks was, of course, to prevent persons appropriating to themselves that which ought to be open to all. There is a "perpetual struggle" going on, as Lord Justice Fry has observed, "to enclose and appropriate as private property certain little strips of the great open common of the English language." "That," he added, "is a kind of trespass against which, I think, the Courts ought to set their faces." And, I think, the Legislature has set its face against it both in the Act of 1883 and in the Act of 1888. There is little danger of the apprehended mischief if invention is required as a condition of registration. After all, invention is not so very common. Turning to the present case, I think the word "Solio" may pass for an invented word. I should think so even if I thought that it contained in itself an obscure reference to the great source of light, and the goods were intended to be used for photographic purposes. But, speaking for myself, I must confess that without explanation from others, better scholars it may be, or worse, it never would have occurred to me to connect "Solio" with the Latin word for the sun. I therefore agree in the motion proposed.

Lord Morris and Lord Shand concurred.

A Medical Aid Company Takes Subscriptions and Contests Liability for Attendance.

IN the Edinburgh Sheriff Small Debt Court, on July 13, Sheriff Hamilton heard proof in an action raised by Mrs. Helen Taylor, of Kirkcaldy, to recover payment of 5*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* from the National Medical Aid Company (Limited), having its registered office at 80 Fleet Street, London, and carrying on business at 29 Haddington Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh. The pursuer alleged that, in consideration of weekly payments made by her, the defenders' company came under an undertaking to provide medical attendance when necessary to the members of her family. Her husband and three children fell ill in March and April, 1896, and she stated that the defenders' collector, in respect that the company had no medical attendant representing them in Kirkcaldy, told her to employ a private doctor, and to send in the account to the company. She engaged Dr. Turner, and he rendered an account for his professional

services to the amount sued for. As the company had refused to pay Dr. Turner she had done so herself, and now sought repayment.

At the outset, Mr. Wright, for the defenders, objected that the Court had no jurisdiction over the defenders. They had, he said, no office in Scotland, and its operations were worked in connection with the Liverpool Victoria Legal Friendly Society, London, whose Edinburgh office was at 29 Haddington Place. There was nothing to indicate that the Medical Aid Company had an office there. They paid no part of the rent and had no salaried officers there. Evidence on this part of the case was heard; but Mr. Terral, district manager of the Liverpool Victoria Legal Society, admitted, in cross-examination, that the collection-card of the Medical Aid Society (produced) gave as their Edinburgh office 29 Haddington Place. He believed he had issued some of these cards. The Sheriff asked for evidence on the other part of the case, which was given. Mr. Wright argued that the company by its regulations did not undertake to pay doctors' accounts, but to provide medical attendance, and they paid the doctor a percentage of the total collections. Mr. Houston, in evidence, stated that in terms of a letter and an interview he had with the manager, he instructed the collectors to tell members to employ their own doctors till the company employed a doctor. He further said that doctors objected to work for the company because it was detrimental to their own interests. The Sheriff held that jurisdiction had been proved, and that the letter spoken to by Mr. Houston covered the whole case. He therefore granted decree for the sum sued for, with 1*l.* 16*s.* of expenses.

Hood's Sarsaparilla.

At the Chancery Court of the County Palatine sitting in Manchester, on July 18, C. I. Hood & Co. (Limited), of 34 Snow Hill, London, brought a motion for an injunction to restrain the defendant, John Barrett, of 227 Halliwell Road, Bolton, from selling any compound or medicine not being the manufacture or product of the plaintiffs as and for the sarsaparilla of the plaintiffs and under the plaintiffs' name. The plaintiffs further claimed an injunction to restrain the defendant from using the name of C. I. Hood & Co. so as to pass off such compounds on the public as being of the plaintiffs' manufacture, when they were not so manufactured by the plaintiffs. Mr. Grant appeared for the plaintiffs, and it appeared from his statement that an auctioneer named Bullough had been and was in the habit of selling in the Bolton Market Place bottles of what purported to be "Hood's sarsaparilla" under instructions from the defendant. The defendant, who appeared in person, consented to an injunction. Judgment was given for the plaintiffs, with costs, the injunction to be perpetual.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

LIME-WATER.

At the Thames Police Court on Tuesday, before Mr. Mead, a summons, taken out by the Poplar Board of Works against Mr. Charles Willmer, chemist, Bow Common Lane, E., was heard. Mr. Young appeared to prosecute, and was accompanied by Dr. Alexander, the medical officer of health, and Mr. Young, the public analyst. Mr. Willmer was defended by Mr. F. W. Beck.

Mr. Young, in opening the case, said the defendant was charged with selling lime-water adulterated to the extent of 46.3 per cent. The Magistrate would remember that, on a recent occasion, when a case referring to lime-water came before him, the defendant had objected to the analyst's certificate claiming that lime-water was an article liable to decomposition, and that the analyst had not specially reported, as the defence maintained the Act required him to do, as to whether change had taken place or not. Though he did not attach much importance to the point, the analyst had decided in all such cases in future to make the report. The present certificate specifically stated that no change had taken place. The public analyst was present, as the defendant had given notice that his attendance would be required. He proposed to call evidence as to purchase, when

Mr. Beck intervened. He said that the Magistrate would doubtless remember the last lime-water prosecution at that court a few weeks back. The prosecuting authorities had now completely vindicated the position which he then took up on behalf of the defence on that occasion, for they had now made the very report which they then said was not necessary. The point for which he had all along contended had now been fully conceded by the prosecution. The defendant would, therefore, now plead guilty; but the present case showed how important the point gained was.

Mr. Mead: By the way, Mr. Beck, I thought further proceedings were being taken in reference to the case you refer to.

Mr. Beck: Yes; we applied for a mandamus, but the High Court did not fully appreciate the importance of the point raised, and we did not get our mandamus. In this case the defence was that the article had been bought from a wholesale firm of repute only ten days before the sale took place. The defendant claimed to have sold it in the condition he bought it, and that he had used every reasonable precaution to prevent deterioration. If, however, the article was deficient in lime, it was due to decomposition, and not in any way to adulteration. Every time the stopper was taken out air was admitted and change went on. The analyst upon the certificate had made the report which was only required in the case of an article liable to decomposition, and therefore the prosecution had themselves supplied evidence of the liability of the article to decompose. He would put Mr. Willmer in the box, if the Magistrate thought it necessary, in support of the statement he had made.

Mr. Mead: Do you suggest, Mr. Young, that what Mr. Beck has said is not so?

Mr. Young: Oh, no, except that as the analyst was required to attend by the defendant he has made experiments with lime-water, and is prepared to show that it would take forty-eight days to bring about the deficiency of 46.3 per cent.

Mr. Beck: The analyst was called upon my advice. I had no reason to infer that he would adopt the course which in the last case he maintained was not necessary. I am ready with expert evidence of the highest character to prove that the lime-water is exceedingly liable to decomposition.

The Magistrate: But would it interfere with the analysis?

Mr. Beck: Most certainly; but as the analyst has adopted the course I am contending for, I do not think it worth while troubling the Court with a discussion which would necessarily be of an academic character.

Mr. Mead: There can be no suggestion of fraud in this case; the article is too cheap. It is important, however, that the article should be of full strength, or its medicinal qualities would be impaired. I am satisfied that what has occurred was not due to fraudulent adulteration, but to inadvertence or ignorance of the care necessary to preserve it in its proper state. The fact that it was liable to decompose was a special reason for taking extra care. There would be a fine of 20*s.* and two guineas costs.

PRECIPITATED SULPHUR.

At Kensington Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, the proprietors of Parke's Drug-stores (Limited) were summoned by the Kensington Vestry for selling precipitated sulphur containing 44.5 per cent. of non-volatilisable mineral matter consisting of sulphate of lime. Mr. W. J. Stephens appeared on behalf of the Vestry, and the manager at the Kensington branch of Parke's Drug-stores for the defendants.

Mrs. Florence Williams stated that on June 21 last she was instructed by Inspector Ellenden to make a purchase at the local branch of Parke's Drug-stores, 151 High Street, Kensington. She asked for 2 oz. of precipitated sulphur, and was handed a small packet for which she paid 2*s.* 7*d.* There was no label on the packet, and nothing was said to her by the assistant who served her as to the nature of the article. She afterwards handed the packet to the inspector, who came into the shop.

Inspector Ellenden stated that, after fulfilling the formalities prescribed by the statute, he drew the assistant's attention to the fact that the packet was not labelled, and the assistant asked to be allowed to affix a label. Witness, however, intimated that he could not comply with that request. He now produced the analyst's certificate.

Mr. Stephens intimated to the Bench that the Vestry had never obtained a conviction against the present defendants, but had found it necessary, about two years ago, to caution them regarding the sale of mercury-ointment.

Defendants' manager admitted that the article as described had been sold, but maintained that it was entirely an accident. The new British Pharmacopœia had only come into force for about three months, and orders had been given at the stores that all the milk of sulphur—the article in question which was sold—should be put away, and not served to a customer.

Dr. Forman (magistrate) asked whether the milk of sulphur was not an article of commerce.

Witness replied that it was, but that it was not now in the Pharmacopœia.

Dr. Forman said the precipitated sulphur, whether in the Pharmacopœia or not, should be sulphur which, when sublimed, would leave no residue.

Witness said he was anxious for it to be understood that this was quite an accident.

Mr. Stephens remarked that the certificate of the Public Analyst reported the article in question to be not in accordance with the regulations of the British Pharmacopœia.

Dr. Forman: My contention is that, whether the article was in accordance with the Pharmacopœia or not, it is not what the customer asked for.

Mr. Stephens: That is just our contention, sir.

Mr. W. Bird (magistrate): This, we consider, is a very serious case. It is absolutely necessary that the public on going to a chemist's shop, or a place where drugs are sold, should get what they ask for, and that they should get pure drugs when they want them. As I said, this is, we consider, a serious case, and the defendants will, therefore, be fined 3*l.* and costs.

A Commercial Traveller's Notice.

AT Hanley County Court, on July 14, before Judge Jordan, Arthur Boyd, commercial traveller, sued Mr. Percy Nadin, drysalter and druggist, Shelton, for 6*l.*, damages for illegal dismissal.

Mr. Ashmall, for the plaintiff, stated that his client was engaged by the defendant as traveller at 3*0s.* a week, and started his duties on Easter Monday. On the following Friday defendant told him that he was of no use to him, and paid him his wages for one week. Plaintiff now sued for four weeks' wages in lieu of notice. According to plaintiff nothing was said when he was engaged about notice.

For the defence it was alleged that plaintiff was to come on trial, and also that he represented that he had a twelve years' connection, and could take 30*l.* a week. It was further alleged that he broke certain rules, but

His Honour said he considered a month reasonable notice for a commercial traveller, and he gave judgment for the amount claimed.

Electrolytic Chemical Patent.

ON Tuesday, before Mr. Justice Bigham, in the Chancery Division, the hearing was concluded of the case of the Castner-Kellner Alkali Company (Limited) *v.* the Commercial Development Corporation (Limited). The plaintiff company are the registered owners of letters patent No. 20,259 of 1894, granted to Mr. Carl Kellner, for an invention of, improvements in the electrolytic apparatus for decomposing alkaline salts, and they applied for an injunction restraining the defendants from manufacturing or selling caustic soda or other alkali in infringement of their letters patent. The defence was a denial of any infringement, and it was also alleged that the plaintiffs' machine was not a fit subject-matter for a patent, as it showed no substantial invention.

Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C., Mr. Bousfield, Q.C., Mr. J. Graham, Mr. A. J. Walter, and Lord Robert Cecil were counsel for the plaintiffs; while Mr. T. Terrell, Q.C., Mr. Astbury, Q.C., Mr. McConkey, and Mr. J. H. Gray represented the defendants.

The case for the plaintiffs was that the Castner-Kellner process was for the production of caustic soda by the use of mercury. This process circulated the mercury. By Mr.

Kellner's subsequent patent the mercury remained stationary relatively to the pan in which it was contained, and the solution-chambers passed over this surface, charging and discharging the mercury bed. It was alleged that the defendants by their invention had adopted the essential principle of the Castner-Kellner patent, which consisted of the stationary mercury cathode. This was denied by the defendants, who stated that their mercury-bed was circulated, and not only so, but by the action of the solution-chambers the mercury-bed of the plaintiffs' apparatus was also churned up. The defendants also alleged that there was disconformity between the complete and original specification of the Castner-Kellner patent, which the plaintiffs denied. On behalf of the plaintiffs, evidence was given by Mr. Swinburne and Lord Kelvin. Professor Dewar was also called, but was not examined, his Lordship (who throughout evinced a disposition to shorten the proceedings as much as was consistently possible) intimating that it was unnecessary to repeat evidence of the same character. For the defence, evidence was given by Mr. Dugald Clerk, Mr. G. A. Grindle, Professor C. Vernon Boyd, and Mr. J. G. Rhoden, the inventor of the Rhoden process. The hearing of the case extended over several days, and at the conclusion of the speeches of counsel in behalf of their respective clients, Mr. Justice Bigham intimated that he should reserve his judgment.

Essayie v. Hotz & Co.—Dispute over Liquorice-root.

ON Monday, in the Queen's Bench Division, the hearing of the action, *Essayie v. Hotz & Co.*, was resumed before Mr. Justice Kennedy. The action was brought to settle a dispute relative to dealings in liquorice-root between plaintiff, a merchant of Bagdad, and the defendants, merchants of London and Bussora. Mr. Carver, Q.C., and Mr. E. Banks appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. J. Walton, Q.C., and Mr. J. A. Hamilton for the defendants.

Mr. Jacob Essayie, the plaintiff, said he carried on business at Bagdad, trading as the firm of Essayie Brothers. He had business with Mr. Hamilton, the representative of the defendants' firm at Bussora. In February, 1895, he discussed the question of his indebtedness to Hotz & Co. with this gentleman. By an agreement of that date it was arranged that Messrs. Hotz & Co. should buy 2,000 tons of liquorice-root, instead of receiving them on consignment. With regard to the payment, it was arranged that they should take liquorice-root to the value of 3,410*l.* before they made any payment. It was not true that in arriving at that amount he admitted he was liable for the award of 523*l.* which had been made against him in London. It was alleged that there was at that time a balance remaining due from him upon the old date on wool transaction, but that was not the case. In August, 1894, he received payment on those old transactions from Hotz & Co. of 324*l.* In November, 1895, he agreed to consign to defendants 4,000 tons of liquorice-root. The root shipped from Mesopotamia grew between Coote and Bagdad. The liquorice grew on both banks of the river Jagus. It was not a fact that liquorice grew all over Asia Minor. Liquorice-root grew only in the neighbourhood of the place he had mentioned. It was gathered by Arabs. About 4,000 men of the "low people" of the Arabs were engaged in the work. Liquorice-digging began in November, and lasted about three and a half months. In the summer time the roots lost juice and were not, therefore, marketable. Down to the end of 1895 plaintiff was employing the Arabs, as well as one other firm. He employed about 3,000. Hotz & Co. tried in the winter of 1894 to dig liquorice, but they only employed a very few Arabs. The collecting work was carried out under the supervision of Mr. S. Dyika. After the contract had been signed with the defendants their employes began to negotiate the sale of the root with the Arabs. They accepted a smaller weight of liquorice for the same price. The result was that nearly half of the Arabs left plaintiff for the defendants. This continued throughout the season. But plaintiff shipped all the liquorice-root he could obtain. It was all sent direct to Messrs. Hotz & Co. at Bussora. He shipped in all between 1,700 and 1,800 tons.

[The case was not concluded.]

Sicilian Essential Oils.

BY FRANC. ANT. CORIO, MESSINA.

FROM time to time the detection of impurities in Sicilian essential oils has engaged the attention of chemists, but no absolutely reliable method has yet been found by means of which precise results can be obtained. Many methods of testing have been put forward, and, although they may seem to be feasible at the commencement, ultimately they lead the chemist into hopeless confusion. One of the chief difficulties attending the analysis of lemon oil, for instance, by the citral test, is the variation in the same oil pressed at different periods. An oil of lemon, for example, pressed in November will yield a higher percentage of citral than one pressed in March; yet both may be equally pure, though the citral analyst would condemn the latter as impure. This should prove the uselessness of the citral test. The polarimeter test is equally misleading. It is well known that lemon oil and turpentine, both belonging to the terpene family, can be so mixed as to give almost the same optical rotation as pure lemon oil itself. Besides results vary according to atmospheric pressure, &c. Perhaps the "nasal" test should receive some consideration. In testing by smell the observer must be able to detect the peculiar pungent odour which is invariably an indication of adulteration. Turpentine also gives the oil a limpidity which is often supposed to prove the purity of an oil. Of course cloudiness is not always a guarantee of purity, for it may happen that this oil is mixed with oil of sweet orange, in which case a connoisseur can detect a peculiar sweetness. Returning to the citral test, we may say that the percentage varies according to the district from which the fruit is a *hered*—i.e., whether from hilly country, or the plains, or whether in close proximity to the sea. The percentage of linalyl ester in bergamot oil may also vary for the same reasons. In fact, two or three seasons ago, the average percentage of linalyl ester that bergamot oil yielded was from 40-42 per cent., while now 37-38 per cent. is considered a high percentage. I have always found Sicilian essential oils keep a great deal better when put up and sealed in small copper vessels in preference to the larger ones, as the continual going to and fro to the container for fresh supplies, as is the case, say, with a 100-lb. copper, causes the ingress of air, which, within a short time, will have a deteriorating effect. A fresh oil pressed, say, in the month of November and sealed in a small copper vessel will be found as sweet and fresh when opened a couple of years hence as if it had just been pressed.

By the law which the Italian Government has recently passed with reference to adulteration, every exporter is bound to fix a label on every copper of oil certifying its purity, or, in the contrary case, the percentage of extraneous matter, failing which he is liable to a heavy penalty and imprisonment as well. An outline of the law was given in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST some three years ago. But as no definite and reliable test has been agreed upon to determine the purity of an oil, and the results obtained vary so as to make quite an abnormal difference, how can an exporter be sure of purity? Moreover, what is there to prevent an unscrupulous dealer pasting on the coppers labels certifying the oil to be adulterated, and instructing his agent, say, in America, on arrival of the goods, to tear off those labels and paste on fresh ones certifying the oil as pure? Of course, in the case of shipments made direct to the consumer himself, this objection is somewhat obviated, but as the majority of the oil shipped from Sicily to the United States of America, and the United Kingdom for that matter, is sent to houses on consignment, serious consequences may result.

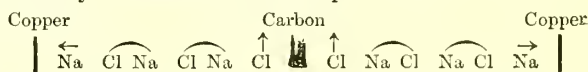
HIS NEW DELUSION.—Mrs. Faddie, faith-curst: "How is your grandfather this morning, Bridget?" Bridget: "He still has the rheumatism mighty bad, mum." "You mean he thinks he has the rheumatism. There is no such thing as rheumatism." "Yes, mum." A few days later. "And does your grandfather still persist in his delusion that he has the rheumatism?" "No, mum, the poor man thinks now that he is dead. We buried um yisterday."

Electrolytic Alkali.

Hargreaves' Process on the Manufacturing Scale.

MR. JAMES HARGREAVES is one of the few pioneers in the English alkali-industry who are left to us. Forty years ago he was active in developing new processes, and to-day, though an old man and feeble in health, his name is associated with a new departure in alkali-manufacture which has in it great possibilities. The late Mr. Thomas Bird and he began nearly ten years since to experiment on the electrolytic decomposition of common salt with the view of getting pure chlorine and pure alkali economically. Before Mr. Bird's death theoretical success came from the experiments, and it has been left to Mr. Hargreaves and his associates to carry the method to manufacturing success, which is the difficult thing in all electrolytic processes.

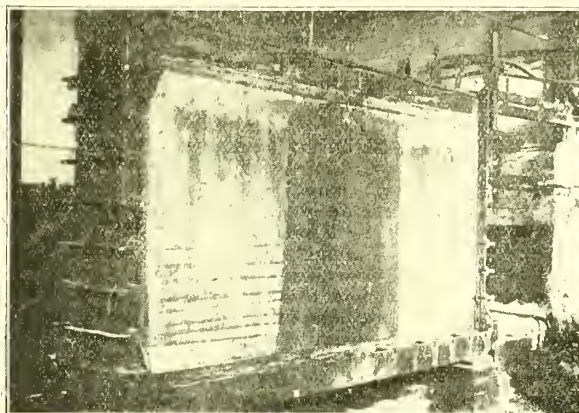
IN THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of December 7, 1895, a full description of the earlier experimental work was given, and we pleaded for consideration rather than criticism of an honest attempt to tackle the great difficulty of electrolytic decomposition of common salt, which difficulty is that when a solution of common salt is electrolysed, if the anode and the cathode are in the same cell the sodium hydrate formed is contaminated with common salt, and the free chlorine gives rise to hypochlorite, chlorate, and so on. Many investigators have tried to overcome this objection by placing the cathode outside the anode cell, yet in the same liquid, a porous diaphragm only separating them. None succeeded until Hargreaves and Bird attacked the problem, and solved the difficulty by the simple procedure of confining the aqueous solution to the anode cell, and leaving the copper cathodes outside in an air-space. To explain the significance of this we cannot do better than go back to our article of December 7, 1895, where we showed that the electrolysis of common salt takes place thus:—



Before Hargreaves and Bird experimenters had the copper cathodes as well as the carbon anode in the same vessel filled with liquid, and tried by means of diaphragms inside the cathode to prevent salt coming through with caustic alkali. That failed. Hargreaves and Bird conceived the idea of an air-space outside the cathode (copper) and bringing the latter into the electric field by means of wet steam, which, as may be supposed, converted the Na ions into NaHO; but they found that the efficiency of the operation was enhanced by passing carbonic-acid gas into the chamber along with steam, whereby Na₂CO₃ was formed. At this stage in 1895 the matter was left on a large experimental scale.

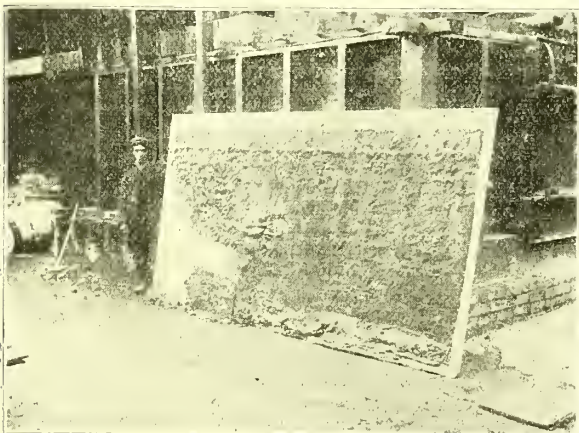
Since then little has been heard of the process, except that the chief inspector under the Alkali Acts, in his last report, mentioned that the process had been in successful operation at Farnworth, where this week we have had the opportunity of inspecting the process. When Mr. Hargreaves brought the matter before the Society of Chemical Industry in 1895, he exhibited one of the diaphragms which he used in the cell, and which gave a 5-foot area, but since that time increases have been made until an area of 100 feet has been reached. The factory at Farnworth is an experimental one, which was acquired by the General Electrolytic Parent Company (Limited), who, we understand, are to transfer the patents to the Electrolytic Alkali Company (Limited), a new company which is to be formed for the purpose of carrying out the Hargreaves-Bird process in the Cheshire district. The Farnworth factory contains only one electrolytic cell, but this is the type which will be used on a more extended scale, a battery of 250 being proposed. The form of the cell is shown in our first illustration opposite. It is an oblong and upright cast-iron box, with movable side-walls, which is 12 feet long by 5 feet high. The interior of the cell contains the anode, which consists of a series of six carbon plates made from gas-retort carbon or coke, and fixed in a very ingenious manner upon copper rods. There are six rods, and six or more pieces of carbon upon each rod, but the whole acts as if it were a solid piece of carbon 10 feet by 5. At each side of the cell

is placed a diaphragm of a peculiar asbestos composition, which is made on the premises. The texture of this diaphragm is such that when securely placed against the sides, and the cells filled with salt solution, it is impermeable to the liquid until the copper cathode (consisting simply of a piece of copper-wire gauze the same size) is placed outside, and the whole securely fixed and the electrolytic action commenced. In operation, therefore, the cell is fixed up as described, brine solution conveyed into the interior in a constant stream, and when the current is turned on, simultaneously steam and carbonic-acid gas are conveyed into the outer parts of the cell—that is between the copper gauze and the



cast-iron covering. The effect of the steam is to bring the copper within the electric field, while it washes off the soda molecules which are attracted by electrolysis to the copper cathode, and simultaneously the carbonic-acid gas converts this soda into carbonate, which in its turn trickles down the cell, and is collected outside as an almost saturated solution. The reaction in the interior cell is substantially as above described; pipes are provided for conveying off the chlorine as it is given off by the carbon anode, and this is conveyed into the bleach-chamber which is shown in the second illustration.

In the latter illustration one of the diaphragms which has been in use for thirty days is shown with the boy standing



alongside it. The crusts on the surface consist of carbonate of lime and other impurities common in brine solution, and these crusts, strange to say, do not affect in the least the efficiency of the diaphragm—in fact, they are considered to improve it, because they fill up any cracks that may, through wear and tear, form in the asbestos material. We had the opportunity of seeing one of the diaphragms made. The process is exceedingly simple, being practically that employed in paper manufacture, and the wet pulp is dried in an oven and “pickled.” When it comes out it is a flexible tough material about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. The exact composition

of this diaphragm is not disclosed, but we are assured that it is inexpensive, and certainly the process of manufacture is of startling simplicity. It is unnecessary for us to describe the Farnworth works. As already stated, they are experimental, and the main thing for consideration is the efficiency of the process carried out. First, in regard to electric efficiency, several well-known authorities, including Professor W. Ramsay, F.R.S., have reported that from 90 to 98 per cent. of the electric energy produced is utilised in the decomposition-process—that is to say, the company have actually obtained bleaching-powder and soda-ash from common salt to that extent. It is also found, after two years' working, that no secondary decomposition-products occur in bleach or soda. The soda-ash obtained contains 97 to 98 per cent. of actual sodium carbonate, with about 1 per cent. of sodium chloride, and a little sulphate and sulphite, which arises from the presence of a little sulphur in the gas from the gas-engines, which is used as carbonic-acid gas; that is an impurity which, of course, will be removed when the process is carried into the actual manufacturing stage. The bleaching-powder produced is of full strength—in short, there is no indication in the products that they are obtained in a novel manner. We may also note that there is no loss of chlorine; indeed, we are assured by a chemist of repute, who is quite independent of the company, and has had opportunity of watching the development of the process, that the chlorine escaping into the atmosphere comes solely from the liquors, and is analytically inappreciable.

When the process is carried out on a manufacturing scale it is proposed to place the factory in the salt district, so that brine may be pumped straight into the cells, and as each cell has automatic provision for the weak electrolysed brine passing out again, this weak brine will be returned to the salt-mines and come back again saturated and ready for further electrolysis—and so on continuously. The process is one which will be carried on from year's end to year's end without intermission. It will be seen, therefore, that in this process success has been attained by sticking to the theoretical lines and adapting the apparatus to the simple equation $\text{NaCl} + e.m.f. = \text{Na} + \text{Cl}$, and the cleverest thing in the arrangement of the apparatus is the diaphragm. The inventors early recognised that osmosis from the cathode portion of the cell to the anode one was the basis of failure, and by providing a septum through which sodium ions could pass and removing these by a gaseous solvent they crossed the rubicon. The chemicals are produced at we understand, a little less than half the present market value, so that there is scope for the commercial exploitation of the process in this country, as well as in other alkali-producing countries.

TIGHT CORKS.—A German patent has recently been granted for making corks fit tighter. The surface of the cork—that is the broad, ring surface which comes in contact with the glass—is corroded in such a manner that instead of being smooth a rough surface is obtained, thus bringing about a more complete tightening by increasing the adhesion to the glass.

THE 1900 EXHIBITION.—The latest announcement concerning this great enterprise is that nine committees have been formed to take charge of the various international congresses that are to be held in Paris during the time the exhibition is open. These will be divided into sections, No. 6 being for medical and pharmaceutical sciences, with Dr. Lannelongue as president, M. Planchon vice-president, and Dr. Gley as secretary. Physical and chemical sciences will figure under section 4, of which M. Troost will be president. In this connection I may suggest that the English delegates who attend these congresses should come provided with some official proof of their nomination. At the Brussels Congress last year I noticed that certain other foreign delegates were well provided by their respective Governments in this respect, and it was certainly no disadvantage to them. Amongst the congresses of interest to pharmacists will be one entitled “Congress of Therapeutics and Materia Medica,” similar to that held in 1889. MM. Adrian, Petit, Ferrand, Portes, Vigier, &c., are interested in it.

Westminster Wisdom.

NO SUCH LUCK FOR THE DOCTORS.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday Dr. Farquharson asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, having regard to the fact that a sum of 5000*l.* a year of public money was paid to the Council of the Incorporated Law Society to assist them in purifying the legal profession, he could see his way to make a similar grant to the General Medical Council, to enable them to undertake the prosecution of irregular medical practitioners.

Sir M. Hicks Beach said: The sum of 2500*l.* voted to the Incorporated Law Society for this purpose is a very small fraction of the yield of the duty on solicitors' certificates, which goes to the Exchequer. No such tax is imposed on medical practitioners, and therefore no question of a similar grant arises.

THE APOTHECARIES' GARDEN.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday Mr. Whitmore asked the honourable member for the Thirsk Division of Yorkshire, as a Charity Commissioner, whether he was aware that the Society of Apothecaries had resolved that it could no longer maintain the Physic Garden at Chelsea; and whether, in view of this decision, and in order to preserve this ancient garden, the Charity Commission would be willing to sanction its acquisition by the governing body of the City Parochial Charities, and its subsequent maintenance by them as a botanical garden.

Mr. Grant Lawson: The Society of Apothecaries, as trustees of the Physic Garden at Chelsea, have applied to the Charity Commissioners for the establishment of a scheme for the future administration of the trusts regulating the garden, which is now maintained at the charge of their corporate funds, and they desire to be relieved from the trusteeship. The Commissioners have received from the trustees of the London Parochial Charities an offer to undertake the trusteeship of the garden and to make a provision for its maintenance for the purpose of botanical study, which appears to be sufficient for that purpose. The Commissioners accordingly propose to publish a scheme giving general effect to these proposals.

THE PENNY-POST MAN.

Mr. Henniker-Heaton, M.P. for Canterbury, is entitled to all the credit for the conversion of the Postmaster-General to the theory of a penny-post throughout the British Empire. Quite regardless of the Government in office, whether the Post Office chief sat on his side of the House or the other,

Mr. Heaton has hunted him for the past twenty years with genial but remorseless persistence. And no P.M.G. need expect to buy Mr. Heaton off by concessions. Granting one, only encourages him to press for more. Australia for the time holds aloof from the penny-postage scheme, but Mr. Heaton expresses his firm conviction that Australia will eventually come in, and that by June 1, 1899, the entire British Empire will be a penny-postal district. The practical outcome of the conference which has just concluded is that letter-postage of one penny per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. will be established



MR. HENNIKER-HEATON, M.P.

between the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Cape Colony, Natal, and such of the Crown colonies as may, after communication with and approval of H.M. Government, be willing to adopt it. The date on which the reduction will come into effect has not yet been decided upon. India is at present undecided; but it is an open secret that the representative of the Indian Postal Service at the conference was in favour of the penny. What line the Indian Government may take remains to be seen.

THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR.

The proposed abandonment of compulsory vaccination is another testimony, if one were needed, to the almost irresistible power of a minority knowing its own mind against a merely sceptical majority. The ordinary layman or laywoman submits to medical dictation when on a sick bed, but resents it with accumulated energy in health. Medical men are themselves responsible for this state of feeling. They get so accustomed to the exercise of authority in their daily work that they cannot get out of the habit when they approach controversial topics; and it is only human to rebel against an oracle. The amendment of the Vaccination Bill carried this week was, in some form or other, inevitable when the principle of respecting the conscientious objector at all was once conceded. To fine him once and then let him disregard the law as much as he liked was absurd. It was granting impunity to those who could afford it. But the plan of devolving on magistrates the duty of deciding whether an offender has neglected his legal duty conscientiously, or otherwise, is a peculiarly hopeless compromise. The *bonâ-fide* traveller has bothered the Bench enough; but the problem concerning him was after all a physical one, and soluble. The conscientious objector presents psychical difficulties which nobody can resolve.

The Poisonous Substances Bill.

THE Halifax and District Chemists' Association held a meeting on July 14, Mr. Swire in the chair, at which the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. C. Brierley, read letters from the local M.P.'s with reference to the Poisonous Substances Bill. He had sent them the *C. & D.* circular, and had stated that it was the wish of the Halifax chemists that they should, if possible, oppose the Bill. The following were the replies:—

House of Commons,

July 7, 1898.

DEAR MR. BRIERLEY,—I have carefully read the circular you sent me, and I shall be glad to support the views contained therein.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ALFRED ARNOLD.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am obliged by your letter and the enclosed statement. I will look carefully into the matter, and will only say now that the views impressed in the circular you have sent seem to me to be reasonable and wise, and I hope to be able to give my vote on the Bill, if it comes up, in accordance with them.

I am, yours very truly,
(Signed) ALFRED BILLSON.

H. C. Brierley, Esq.

These replies were considered very satisfactory.

A meeting of the Nottingham and Notts Chemists' Association was held on July 15 to consider the Bill. In the absence from home of the President (Mr. Fitzhugh, J.P.), the chair was occupied by the Vice-President (Mr. E. Gascoyne), who introduced the subject. He expressed the belief that they were all thoroughly opposed to the whole Bill, as being of a retrograde character, and a violation of the preamble of the Pharmacy Act, 1868.

Mr. Eberlin (the Secretary) proposed—

That this meeting of the Nottingham and Notts Chemists' Association resolves to oppose the "Poisonous Substances Bill," now before Parliament, on the ground that it is subversive of the principles on which the Legislature has decided that the regulation of the sale of and dispensing of poisons should be conducted for the safety of the public; and instructs its Secretary to forward a copy of this resolution to each member of Parliament for the City and County.

Mr. Lumby seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Secretary announced that he had received twenty-six proxy votes in support of the resolution. Mr. Eberlin also read letters which had been received from Mr. J. H. Yoxall, M.P. for West Nottingham; Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P. for South Nottingham; and Mr. J. Carvell Williams, M.P. for the Mansfield Division, promising to give the matter their closest attention should it be necessary.

The Inverness Chemists' Association discussed this Bill, and resolved on strenuous opposition to it, on the night that Mr. Balfour announced its withdrawal.

The Exeter Chemists' Association met on July 14 to discuss the Bill, Mr. D. Reid (President) in the chair. The fact that the Bill was withdrawn did not much check the speakers, for it was considered (the Chairman said) that the Bill would be passed on with others until another Session, therefore the Association should be prepared to take action whenever it came up. Mr. J. H. Lake moved—

That this meeting of members of the Exeter Association of Chemists and Druggists is of opinion that the introduction of the Poisonous Substances Bill is both unnecessary and dangerous to the public safety, inasmuch as by the Pharmacy Act suitably-trained persons are provided (who possess an intimate knowledge already of the nature and use of poisons) for the purpose of distributing those substances. The fact that registered chemists and druggists often refuse to sell poisons at their discretion should be regarded as ample proof of the necessity for some safeguard being adopted for the public safety other than simply attaching a "poison" label to the poison sold by an unqualified person. In effect the Poisonous Substances Bill stultifies the Pharmacy Act, inasmuch as the discretion of the vendor, which has been hitherto very effective, in the case of the pharmacists is utterly ignored. This Bill should, in the interest of the public, be most strenuously opposed.

Mr. P. F. Rowsell (Hon. Secretary) at first questioned the advisability of inserting the words "is both unnecessary and dangerous to the public safety" into the resolution, because, whilst he agreed with the principle of the resolution, he thought from a public point of view it would make things somewhat safer than they were at present. After some discussion, however, Mr. Rowsell withdrew his criticism and seconded the motion, which was carried, with another resolving to ask Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., to receive a deputation from the Association before the next Session of Parliament.

New Books.

Furbringer, P. *Text-book of Diseases of the Kidneys and Genito-Urinary Organs*. Translated from the German by W. H. Gilbert. 2 vols. Vol. 2. 8vo. 10s. 6d. (Lewis.)

Houston, E. J., Kennelly, A. E. *Electricity Made Easy*. Crown 8vo. 6s. net. (Sonnenschein.)

Lafar, F. *Technical Micology: the Utilisation of Micro-organisms in the Arts and Manufactures. A Practical Handbook on Fermentation and Fermentative Processes*. Translated by Charles T. C. Salter. 2 vols. Vol. i.: Schizomycetic Fermentation. With plate and 90 figures in the text. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 5 $\frac{3}{4}$. Pp. 424. 15s. (Griffin.)

Mann, J. D. *Forensic Medicine and Toxicology*. 2nd ed. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. 698. 21s. (Griffin.)

Manson, P. *Tropical Diseases: a Manual of the Diseases of Warm Climates*. 88 illus. and 2 colrd. plates. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 4 $\frac{3}{4}$. Pp. 424. 10s. 6d. (Cassell.)

Mond, L., &c. *On the Occlusion of Hydrogen and Oxygen by Palladium*. Phil. Trans. A., 1898. Vol. 191. Pp. 105-126. 1s. (Dulau.)

Morton, W. J. *Cataphoresis, or Electric Medicamental Diffusion*. 8vo. 20s. net. (Sonnenschein.)

Muter, Dr. *Short Manual of Analytical Chemistry*. 7th ed. 6s. 6d. (Simpkin Marshall, and Baillière.)

Packard, A. S. *A Text-book of Entomology, including the Anatomy, Physiology, Embryology, and Metamorphoses of Insects, for Use in Agricultural and Technical Schools and Working Entomologists*. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. 748. 18s. net. (Macmillan.)

Pearman, T. H., and Moor, C. G. *Applied Bacteriology*. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. 40 woodcuts and 81 coloured figures. 2nd ed. 12s. 6d. net. (Baillière, Tindall & Cox.)

Schenk, Dr. L. *The Determination of Sex*. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 5. Pp. 174. 5s. (Werner Co.)

Smith, E. A. *Manual of Dental Metallurgy*. 37 Illust. Crown 8vo. 6s. 6d. (Churchill.)

Soap-makers' Directory: a List of the Manufacturers of Soap in Great Britain, with some of those in Ireland. 6th ed. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. 54. 2s. 6d. (Simpkin.)

New Remedies.

Ammonium Fluoroborate and Fluorsilicate have been recommended by Dr. F. Mohrhoff as a spray in treating affections of the air-passages. They are powerful antiseptics, and appear to be equally suitable as internal remedies for tuberculosis, diabetes, and gout. The dose is not stated.

Eurobin.—A derivative of chrysarobin, believed to be an "acetate," has been introduced under this name by Dr. Kromayer, and is used, in 2 or 3 per cent. solution, for all purposes for which chrysarobin is used. It has the advantage over it of not staining the skin or the linen. Chrysarobintriacetate has also been prepared, and is to be known as *lenirobin*. It is employed in various chronic skin-diseases.

Eugallol, Lenigallol, and Saligallol.—These are names applied to derivatives of pyrogallol, which have been experimented with by Dr. Kromayer, of Halle, in certain skin-diseases. Eugallol is pyrogallolmonoacetate. It is a substance of the consistency of syrup, semi-translucent, and of brownish-yellow colour. It is easily soluble in water; dissolves readily in acetone, and is sent out diluted with 33 per cent. of acetone, in which form it is used in the treatment of psoriasis and similar troubles with fair success. Lenigallol is pyrogalloltriacetate. It is a non-poisonous white powder soluble in water, and is split up by alkalis. It is used as an ointment, equal parts of lenigallol and lanoline being applied, or it may be combined as a substitute for pyrogallol in various diseases into which it is desired to remove the excrescences. For treating eczema, especially of children, a much weaker preparation is employed—viz., $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. of lenigallol with Unna's zinc paste. The third compound is pyrogalloldisalicylate. It is a body of a resinous nature, and forms with 2 parts of acetone or 15 parts of chloroform a sort of varnish. It is sent into the market combined with 66 per cent. of acetone, and is used for the same purpose as eugallol.

Ferric Algenate.—Algenic acid is a peculiar colloidal substance which Mr. E. C. C. Stanford isolated from seaweed. It resembles albumen in some respects, and combines with iron to form an algenate. Dr. Wm. MacLennan, of Glasgow, states that alginate of iron is a tasteless, brown, insoluble powder containing 10.92 per cent. of iron. Liquor ferri albumenatis, the preparation most akin to it, only contains 0.1 per cent. Algenate of iron is best administered in a fine powder. Children take it readily, owing to its tasteless character and absence of styptic quality. It is soluble in ammonia, but such a solution on coming into contact with the acid gastric juice would be decomposed. In doses of 10 to 15 gr., thrice daily, it has been employed in a number of cases of anæmia and chlorosis complicated by functional or organic stomach symptoms, and it is found that the algenate was borne well, and even had a sedative action, but when it was withdrawn and the saccharated carbonate substituted, vomiting and pain returned. The algenate seemed to be rapidly absorbed, and a healthy complexion was soon obtained.

Guaeampol is an ester obtained by the combination of camphoric acid and guaiaicol. It occurs in beautiful white crystalline needles, is odourless and tasteless, insoluble in water, but easily soluble in part alcohol and chloroform. It is said to be a remedy for the night-sweats, diarrhæa, phthisis, and has given good results.

Guaiperol is the short name for piperadina-guaiaicolata, a combination recommended for the treatment of phthisis. In the *Brit. Med. Jour.*, page 154, are notes of two cases under the care of Dr. Acland, physician to the Brompton Hospital, both being treated with 5 to 10 gr. doses of the guaiperol thrice daily, with good results. The remedy specially affected the night-sweats, and under its use the weight of the patients increase.

Polyformin.—Under this name a soluble form of diresorcinhexamethylenetetramin has been introduced. It is a crystalline white substance, soluble in cold water and alcohol, and is suggested as an antifermentive and diuretic medicine.

"SANITAS" EMBROICATION

in bottles to retail at

8d., 1/-, and 2/6.

"SANITAS"

AND OTHER

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BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA, 1898.

Editorial Comments.

Companies and the Pharmacy Act.

THE third reading of the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill in the House of Lords, on which the Earl of Hardwicke promised last week to bring up for their Lordships' approval a clause dealing with the evasion of the Pharmacy Act by companies, was postponed from Monday last to Thursday of this week. As we have to go to press with this part of our paper before the sitting of the House of Lords will be finished, we must refer chemists to the last literary page of this number for a report of what takes place.

In our opinion, the little conversation between the Lord Chancellor, Lord Herschell, and the Earl of Hardwicke which occurred in the Grand Committee last week was, so far as chemists are concerned, the most important Parliamentary event of the Session. The plucky—and it may be added lucky—conduct of the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill through the House of Commons excited more interest than the intrinsic merits of that measure deserved; the sudden swoop of the Duke of Devonshire with his Poisonous Substances Bill properly aroused the trade to earnest and unanimous hostility, and its sudden execution by Mr. Balfour provided a fitting dramatic finish. That Bill took nothing away from chemists, but was so bitterly opposed because it undermined the principle of the Pharmacy Acts of the United Kingdom. But what the great legal authorities of the House of Lords proposed to give us was the amendment which our representative body have for twenty years professed to long for, what their amending Act was, we were told, to prepare the way for, but what all this time they had never dared to ask for.

The amending clause to be submitted to the House of Lords has been actually framed by the Lord Chancellor. It cannot be said to provide all that chemists have a fair right to ask, for it will still allow companies to carry on the business of chemists and druggists if they employ qualified managers. But this would at least check the abuse of companies being formed with the express object of evading the Act. It might, perhaps, be improved, and in any case it is to be hoped that all possible aid will be given by the Pharmaceutical Council as representing the trade. We hope it is not true that there is a disposition to stave off this provision so as to ensure the passage of the Bill. To add such a clause to the Bill at this stage, it is said, ensures that it will be wrecked. Why not be content with the expressions of opinion from two such eminent lawyers as the Lord Chancellor and Lord Herschell, but get this Bill through now we have got so near, and bring in a new Bill next year? The answer is easy. First of all we should strike while the iron is hot. Next the opportunity is presented of almost certainly getting a vote of the House of Commons on the company question, and to climb up to that crisis through the ordinary stages of legislation may mean years of weary waiting. And we are not so certain that the House of Commons would reject the clause. The company druggists would, of course, exert themselves to the utmost to whip up opponents, but they are not omnipotent, and nobody—not even they—can maintain that it is reasonable or just that mere registration as a company should entitle seven persons to do jointly what the law says they shall not do severally. Here is the manifesto of one of the most influential and one of the most interested of them. We cut it from Wednesday's *Daily Mail* :—

DRUG COMPANIES THREATENED.

We have noted with great interest the refusal of Messrs. Smith to sell the *Harmsworth Magazine* on their bookstalls. We are particularly interested because we have fought the battle of monopoly in our own trade and won—as you will do.

Having beaten our opponents, the old-fashioned chemists, commercially, they are now crying for protection by legislative action to deliver them from competition, and, singular to say, the introducer of the Bill which is being utilised for this purpose (the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill) was Mr. Smith, of bookstall celebrity.

We feel confident the House of Lords, before whom the Bill comes on Thursday, in its last stage (with an amendment aimed at suppressing company pharmacies, sprung upon the public and ourselves, then to be proposed for the first time), will not allow this privilege and monopoly of the chemists' business to be affirmed. In any case their efforts to crush us must prove futile.

JESSE BOOT, Managing Director,

Boots, Cash Chemists (Western) (Limited),
Boots (Limited).

In that letter Mr. Boot himself chooses—very unwisely, we think—to raise the issue whether the pharmacy of the future is to be in the hands of commercial companies like his, whose only object is to make a dividend, or in the hands of the "old-fashioned chemists," as he calls them—the men who have cultivated the art of pharmacy, the men who are the real authors of our Pharmacopœias, the men on whom the public and the medical profession are and have been for generations dependent for the study of drugs, and for the most perfect presentation of these to the sick and suffering. We ask no better than to have the chance of getting our case and Mr. Boot's put squarely before the House of Commons, and we would even be willing to let the vote be taken on the letter we have quoted.

Invented Words as Trade-marks.

THE judgment of the House of Lords in the "Solio" trade-mark case comes as somewhat of a surprise. For a long time back the decisions have gone against the unfortunate

applicants for registration with a regularity which made them almost despair of discovering a pronounceable word into which the suspicious Comptroller would not read some covert meaning. Now the highest Court of the land has swung the pendulum back with startling energy. What does it matter, asks Lord Herschell, if an "invented word" does contain some cleverly-wrapped-up significance? The statute nowhere says it shall not. If the word is a really "invented word," and does not infringe on the common rights to the English language as we find it, the House of Lords recognises its right to registration.

The case before them was the word "Solio," which the Eastman Company wanted to register for some photographic paper. The Comptroller thought "Solio" was a derivative from "sol," and "sol" being peculiarly associated with photography, he came to the conclusion that the term was descriptive and could not be allowed. His objection was maintained by Mr. Justice Kekewich and by the Court of Appeal, but the five law lords who heard the claim finally have agreed that the trade-mark should be allowed.

By the Trade-marks Act (1883) a "fancy word" was made eligible for registration as a trade-mark. But who could say what was a "fancy word"? The law Courts anyway failed to define it. In 1888 an amending Act was passed, and instead of the term "fancy word," the Legislature admitted to rights of registration (a) an invented word or words, or (b) word or words having no reference to the character or quality of the goods, and not being a geographical name. The Comptroller and the Courts have pretty uniformly held that the invented word, as well as the common word, must have no reference to the character or quality of the goods; but Lords Herschell and Macnaghten say they find no justification for this delicacy. "If it is an invented word," says Lord Macnaghten, "it seems to me that it is no objection that it may be traced to a foreign source, or that it may contain a covert and skilful allusion to the character or quality of the goods. I do not think it is necessary that it should be wholly meaningless."

This decision is of the utmost importance. It will give a new development to trade-marks and a needed encouragement to the art of inventing words. Nor can we see that it can possibly do any harm to anyone. It is not conceivable that any other manufacturer can be an atom prejudiced by the exclusive use of the word "Solio" for photographic paper by one house, even on the supposition that "Solio" does mean or suggest sunlight. As a matter of fact, the word means (in Italian) a throne; but that is of no importance. It does certainly remind the English reader of the sun. So much the better for the Eastman Company, who deserve congratulations on the courage with which they have contested this case up to the highest tribunal. It came out in evidence that their first intention was to apply for the registration of "Soho" as the trade-mark in this case. That, as a geographical word, would certainly have been inadmissible. But the managing director of the company, when he first saw the word written, read it "Solio," and took a fancy to that designation. We hope it may prove to be worth the trouble and expense it has involved.

Chemists and the Spectacle=trade.

IN response to our note of last week we have received a large number of replies from progressive chemists supporting the view that if representation on the Committee of the Spectacle Makers' Company is to be granted to outsiders chemists and druggists should certainly be included. We have also been in communication with the Spectacle Makers' Company, and although we have not yet received their

formal reply, we are afraid that, since the Pharmaceutical Council have refused to appoint a member of the Society on the Committee, the Company may have come to see that it will not be altogether desirable for outside bodies to have direct representatives, and especially that they will prefer the election of members of the Committee to remain in their own hands. We imagine there would be no objection to the election on the Committee of a chemist who is a member of the Company. It is desirable that the interests of the drug-trade should be looked after in the meantime, and we hope that the Company will see their way to the election of Mr. Maw, or some other member connected with the drug-trade. It would do good if chemists who are interested in this matter would ask any friends, members of the Company, to use their influence in this direction, for there is no question that the present is rather a critical period in chemists' interests, as the opticians' representatives show a disposition to keep the drug-trade out of it, and to discourage a connection between pharmacy and spectacles. That this would be detrimental to the interests of many in the trade the correspondence which we have received clearly shows. The following are some extracts from the letters, which we may say are written by leading members of the Pharmaceutical Society, Fellows of learned societies, and some who have taken high optical and scientific qualifications:—

Spectacle-fitting has become one of the most important branches of my business. (241/60.)

The subject is of considerable interest to ourselves, as we are taking up the supply of spectacles. (243/55.)

I should like to see a member of our trade included in the Committee. (241/65.)

I feel that some step is necessary to enable the public to discriminate between the man who sells spectacles as he would a cake of soap, and the one who by the study of optics is justly entitled to their confidence. (242/33.)

I am sure it would be a great convenience to the doctor to be able to call on the chemist for any particular style of glass or frame he may require to prescribe. (244/7, a doctor.)

I think it is highly desirable that there should be a member of the Committee representing chemists' interests. (244/29.)

The spectacle-trade is often a useful adjunct to a chemist's business. I must thank you for your excellent article. (244/40, a member of the Pharmaceutical Council.)

I am directly interested in the matter, and will follow the movement with interest. (244/51.)

I have done a very fair business in spectacles for twenty-five years, and have found it very interesting, as well as a profitable branch of my business. (245/57.)

I am one of those interested in your suggestions, as I carry on a spectacle department on scientific lines. (245/1.)

I think your idea a good one. (243/20.)

Please accept best thanks; shall be pleased to attend any meeting. (243/4.)

I beg to heartily support your views. (245/66.)

I intend going in for the spectacle trade thoroughly, as I have done the photographic-trade, when in less than two years I have built up a very considerable business. (242/50.)

Anything you may do to brighten up the prospect of the trade will be appreciated. (242/14.)

We are much interested in spectacles. (217/40.)

We thank you again for your action in the interest of the £ s. d. side of pharmacy. (242/20.)

It is clear to us that this is a department of business which chemists, from their scientific training, are peculiarly capable of conducting, and that they have conducted it with success; therefore, that they should oppose any procedure which is calculated to minimise their hold of the trade. We hope to give further particulars about the Company's examination in an early issue, and may here correct the statement that a 30s. fee covers admission to the Company and freedom of London City. In addition to the fee there is a stamp-fee of 1*l.*, and one of 1*l.* 1*s.*, payable to the City on becoming a freeman. The Clerk of the Company is Colonel Davies Sewell, Chamberlain's Court, Guildhall, E.C.

The Opium-market.

THE information which we have published during the past month regarding the opium-crop will have prepared buyers for the weekly stiffening and advances in prices which have taken place. The latest advice is to the effect that the Turkey crops will not yield much more than half the usual quantity, and this would be a far more serious matter than it is were not the stock of old opium in Turkey double what it was at the beginning of last season. The known stocks in Smyrna and Constantinople amount to 3,000 cases, but speculators there hold an unknown quantity. The London stocks are not large—in fact, the market is bare of some grades—and in the United States there is believed to be a fair stock held by good houses. Perhaps the most disturbing feature of the situation is the comparative absence of purchasing for the American market, which has been delayed, owing, it is said, to the war; but within the past ten days Americans have been buying more freely, and would probably have been earlier on the spot if their stocks had been abnormally low. The present position is one of considerable uncertainty; buyers seem not to be disposed to believe in a big advance, while holders are extremely firm in their views, especially in London, and are parting with their holdings only at higher rates. The attitude of alkaloid-makers is far from decided. They have made a feeble advance in the price of morphine salts this week, but codeine is unaltered, although it is made from morphine. The keen competition amongst the manufacturers is responsible for this position. We have not, however, seen the last of the rise, but we shall be surprised if the future advance is much more than 10 or 15 per cent. upon the present prices. There is practically no hope of a decline, as the Turkey crops are now nearing completion, and the net yield will be somewhat less in amount than the stocks of old opium. It is worthy of note that the continental market is decidedly stronger than ours, and there prices for all opium-alkaloids are reported to be rising. The American market was quiet until ten days ago, when firmness set in, and our correspondents advise us of greater inquiry there. We commend the various letters in our Trade Report to the consideration of those directly interested. These confirm the deduction which has now been forced upon London buyers—that no advantage will be gained by delaying purchases. There will also be, it should be added, a prompt and unwarrantable rise if there is a rush at the present moment.

COMPULSORY LICENCE TO WORK A PATENT.

The Board of Trade has this month granted to Messrs. Levinstein, of Manchester, a licence to use a patent granted in this country to Messrs. Meister, Lucius & Brüning, of Höchst-am-Main, for the manufacture of certain dyes. The licensees are to pay to the patentees a royalty of $\frac{1}{3}$ *d.* per lb., and not less than 250*l.* per annum during the term of the patent. This is said to be the first time that the powers of the Board of Trade under section 22 of the Patents, &c., Act of 1883 have been exercised.

THE PROPRIETARY-STAMP TAX IN AMERICA.

The proprietary manufacturers of the United States scored well in their contest with the Treasury over the war-taxes. The Legislature wanted to impose a tax of 4*c.* on the dollar retail-price, the patriotic pill-people thought 1*c.* on the dollar would be sufficient, and both parties ultimately compromised on 2½ per cent. The proprietors were contented, and said so, but the Government is getting even with them. Our New York correspondent tells us how they are being

hit. Any pharmaceutical preparation trade-marked or monogramed, any patented medicine, all synthetics in which proprietary rights are asserted are required to be stamped according to retail value, even when sold in bulk from wholesale to retail. They have to be stamped again when sold in packages from retailer to the public. The same conditions are imposed on perfumery and on all toilet-preparations.

POSTAL PARCELS FOR THE COLONIES.

The Postmaster-General having started on a revolutionary career is putting his heart into the work. After startling us last week with his announcement of penny postage between this country and certain of the colonies, he follows up that generosity by the intimation of a further sacrifice. It appears that at the recent conference on postage within the British Empire the Postmaster-General brought forward the question of simplifying and reducing parcel postage, and proposed, for ultimate adoption in the case of all parcels exchanged between the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire, the following scale:—

For a parcel weighing—

Not over 3 lbs.	...	...	...	1s.	0d.
Over 3 lbs., but not over 7 lbs.	...	...	...	2s.	0d.
Over 7 lbs., but not over 11 lbs.	...	...	...	3s.	0d.

This would supersede the various British scales, numbering more than twenty, now in force, and would greatly encourage the use of the parcel post by providing moderate charges for heavy parcels, in respect of which the present charges are in some cases high. For parcels not exceeding 1 lb. in weight there are, of course, lower charges than 1s. at the present time. But the scheme of allowing the lowest rate to carry parcels of three times the present weight, and of making the highest rate 3s., as against the present rates varying from 4s. to 9s. 6d., must give a great impulse to the commerce conducted through the parcel post. The scheme was very cordially received by the colonial representatives who undertook to refer it at once to their Governments for consideration.

SELLING ABOVE FACE VALUE.

Mr. Alfred Harmsworth is responsible for a new departure in retail prices. The 3d. magazine which he brought out the other day is supplied to the retail trade at 2s. 6d. per 12, carriage paid; wholesalers having 5 per cent. discount for handling it. The trade-prices were not revealed until the last moment, and when the public appetite had been excited by gigantic advertising of the paper. As soon as the terms were known leading retailers came to the conclusion that they could only handle the magazine at a loss. The Retail Newsagents and Booksellers Union took the matter up, and issued a circular to the trade, accompanied by "A Protest to the Public." The latter is exhibited in booksellers' windows, and in one corner of it occurs the following paragraph:—

A sixpenny magazine cannot be produced for threepence, unless some portion of the labour involved in production and distribution to the public is insufficiently remunerated. In this case the newsagent and bookseller is the sufferer, and we have therefore no hesitation in protesting against such methods by asking the public to pay 3½d., which price will give the shopkeeper between a farthing and a halfpenny clear profit on each copy he sells.

The Union reports good results from this protest; but it is not certain that they will get much benefit from the backing of Messrs. W. H. Smith & Co., who for this occasion only are manifesting a peculiar sympathy with their small competitors. There is, however, a strong movement among country booksellers to make 3½d. the practically universal price for No. 2 of the magazine. The point which interests the drug-trade is that Mr. Harmsworth defends his terms on the ground that they are arranged to prevent cutting; that is

exactly what has been said in regard to proprietary medicines when the manufacturers have put their prices up. So that this struggle in the book-trade is worth watching by druggists.

THE SALE OF CARBOLIC ACID.

It is perhaps not generally known that the organ of the British Medical Association made a somersault the other week over the Poisonous Substances Bill, and although it did not become extremely enthusiastic in its condemnation of the measure, yet it ranged a'long with those who considered that the principle involved was a bad one. The *British Medical Journal* was consistent, it seems, with the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Association, of which Dr. Robert Farquharson is Chairman. In the course of the committee's report we find the following paragraph:—

REGULATION OF THE SALE OF CARBOLIC ACID.

The committee are glad to be able to state that the question of carbolie acid has been settled as far as possible. The reply of the Home Secretary to a question on the subject was to the effect that the Privy Council, while not thinking it expedient to include carbolie acid in the schedule of poisons, are of opinion that regulations should be made with regard to its sale and to that of other poisonous substances. In accordance with the promise given the Bill on the subject of poisons, introduced by the Duke of Devonshire in June, contains provisions dealing with the sale of this poison.

What surprises us most about the matter is that Dr. R. Farquharson's name should be appended to the report. He has been such a good friend of pharmacists that it is astonishing to find him countenancing a measure so obviously detrimental to the best interests of pharmacy.

AN INTERNATIONAL COMPLICATION CLEARED.

In a paper recently read to the Chemical Society by Messrs. Dunstan and Henry it was mentioned that "the first important contribution to the chemistry of podophyllum was that made by Podwyssotski. This chemist showed that the rhizome did not, as was previously supposed, contain the alkaloid berberine." Dr. F. B. Power, the director of the Wellcome Research Laboratory, happens to have been working under Flückiger some four years before Podwyssotski's paper on podophyllum appeared, and Dr. Power proved then the absence of berberine from podophyllum. The fact was published at the time (1877) through the American Pharmaceutical Association. Dr. Power now returns to the subject again, and in a paper printed in the *Chemical News* last week he, with quotations from about a dozen sources (including the "Imperial Institute Handbook of Commercial Products," No. 3), proves that Power was before Podwyssotski in proving the absence of berberine from podophyllum. Dr. Power proceeds to show that Podwyssotski gave him credit for his work, then follows with these remarks:—

In considering the action of fused potash on podophyllotoxin and on podophylloresin, Messrs. Dunstan and Henry (*J. C. S.*, pp. 216, 222) refer to the investigation of Guareschi, but make no mention of the fact that two years before the publication of Guareschi's paper (*Ber. d. Deutsch. Chem. Ges.*, 1879, p. 683) I had observed and recorded the formation of protocathechuic acid as a product of the action of fused potassium hydroxide on podophyllin (*Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc.*, 1877, p. 428), and this point of the investigation was even subsequently extended to ascertain whether protocathechuic acid is a natural constituent of the rhizome of podophyllum (*Amer. Journ. Pharm.*, 1878, p. 369). By the action of fused potassa on podophyllin it was likewise observed and recorded that volatile acids are formed (*loc. cit.*, p. 428), and by the action of fused potash on podophyllotoxin Messrs. Dunstan and Henry have now identified the volatile acid formed as acetic acid.

Although Messrs. Dunstan and Henry may be acceded the privilege of their own opinion in considering the investigation of Podwyssotski to be "the first important contribution to the chemistry of podophyllum," it is an error to state or to suggest that Podwyssotski was the first to prove "that the rhizome did not, as was previously supposed, contain the alkaloid berberine."

This is very neat, and we should be afraid of spoiling the

poetry by adding anything to it except to call attention to our old friend acetic acid.

MORE PHARMACOPEIA REVISION.

It is announced that representatives of the medical and pharmaceutical societies in the United States will meet in Washington in 1900 to appoint a committee to revise the Pharmacopœia of the country. The announcement sounds to us a trifle previous; but we are reminded, by the receipt of a pamphlet on "Alkaloidal Estimation," that American pharmacists are always preparing for the next Pharmacopœia. We take the Washington meeting two years hence to be a mere formality; a committee always exists, and is always doing something in anticipation of the next edition. The "Alkaloidal Estimation" pamphlet is an educt of the latter. It contains a bibliographical index of work done in all parts of the world on alkaloidal estimation between 1877 and 1897, but there is a chronological index which takes us back to 1861 and Wagner's method of separating alkaloids by means of iodo-potassium iodide. We observe that the pamphlet has been compiled by Mr. Paul I. Murill, under the direction of Professor Albert B. Prescott. It is printed for private circulation only, and we would value it for that reason had we not already treasured it as a work of merit, and useful to boot. American pharmacists give us points in Pharmacopœia revision, they are so thorough and systematic; but, then, anything we do in that line is in the nature of toiling in another's vineyard.

British Pharmaceutical Conference.

THE arrangements for the meeting to be held in Belfast on August 9 and 10 are now well forward, and the following are the papers which have been promised:—

1. "Albumen and some Types of Proteid Digestion," by Gordon Sharp, M.D., Edin.
2. "Gluten Flour and its Analysis," by D. V. Fielden, L.P.S.I.
3. "Materia Medica Animals," by J. C. McWalter, L.R.C.S.I., &c.
4. "Salient Features of the Irish Flora," by G. C. Druce, M.A., F.L.S.
5. "Kieselguhr," by John Moss, F.I.C., F.C.S.
6. "The Amount of Carbonic Anhydride Available in the Official Granular Effervescent Preparations," by C. S. Dyer, A.P.S.
7. "Note on Eucalyptus Oil," by E. J. Parry, B.Sc., F.I.C.
8. "Notes on Concentrated Oil of Lemon," by T. H. W. Idris, F.C.S.
9. "Notes on Extract of Ginger," by T. H. W. Idris, F.C.S.
10. "A Quick Polarimetric Method for the Estimation of Strophanthin in the B.P. Tincture and Extract," by Edward Douzard, F.C.S.
11. "The Characters and Methods of Estimation of the Official Hypophosphites" (Contribution from the Wellcome Research Laboratory), by H. A. D. Jowett, D.Sc.
12. "Note on the Mydriatic Alkaloids," by H. A. D. Jowett, D.Sc.
13. "Pharmacists and the Pharmacopœia," by Peter MacEwan, F.C.S.
14. "Galenical Pharmacy of the 1898 Pharmacopœia," by F. C. J. Bird.
15. "The Nomenclature of Certain Drugs of the Pharmacopœia," by G. C. Druce, M.A., F.L.S.
16. "The Chemistry of the Pharmacopœia," by P. Kelly.
17. "The Galenicals of the Pharmacopœia from a Wholesaler's Point of View," by H. Wippell Gadd.
18. "Notes on Estimations of Ferrum Redactum," by E. Saville Peck, B.A.
19. "The Pharmacopœia Chemically Considered," by A. L. Doran, L.P.S.I.

Papers will also be contributed by J. C. Umney, F.C.S., and W. A. H. Naylor and John J. Bryant. We understand that the Pharmacopœia papers will form the basis of a discussion on the new work.

Wills of Deceased Chemists.

The will of Mr. Jas. Ross Faulkner, chemist and druggist, 173 Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill, who died on April 13, 1898, has been proved by Mr. A. V. Humphries, 4 Warwick Lane, E.C. The testator's estate was sworn at 1,055*l.* 16*s.*

The will of Mr. John Dawson, chemist and druggist, Stourbridge, who died on July 10, 1897, has been proved by Mr. Henry Newman, coal-merchant, the executor. The testator's personal estate was sworn at 1,461*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

The will of the late Mr. Norman Crawshaw, chemist and druggist, Egremont, Cumberland, has been proved in London by Mr. Thomas W. Collin and Mr. Jonathan Parry, the executors of the testator, whose personal estate was sworn at 194*l.*

Letters of administration to the estate of Mr. Peter Hampson, chemist and druggist, Westthoughton, Bolton, who died intestate on August 17, 1897, have been granted to the widow, Mrs. Phoebe Hampson. The deceased's personality was sworn at 357*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

Letters of administration to the estate of Mr. John Halliwell, druggist, 27 Bridge Street, Rochdale, who died intestate on July 13, 1897, have been granted to his widow, Mrs. Grace Halliwell. The deceased's personality was sworn at 577*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

The will of Mr. James Cornelius, chemist and druggist 73 Camden Road, N.W., who died on June 4, 1898, has been proved by Margaret Norris Shaw, the sole executrix of the testator, whose estate was sworn at 863*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, of which 778*l.* 10*s.* is net personality.

The will of Mr. James Worfolk, chemist, 61 Kirkgate, Leeds, who died on June 21, 1897, has been proved by Mr. John O'Neill, Beckett Street, and Mr. C. E. Maxwell, 55 Kirkgate, both of Leeds, the executors, by whom the testator's personal estate is sworn at 853*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* gross, and 789*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* net.

The will, with a codicil of Mr. Courtenay Kingsford, chemist, 4 Lewes Crescent, Brighton, who died on January 22, has been proved by his widow, Mrs. Annette Kingsford and his sons, Mr. Edward A. Kingsford and Mr. Julius Kingsford, by whom the testator's gross estate is sworn at 12,006*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, but the net personality is *nil*.

The will of the late Mr. R. H. Nield, of the firm of R. H. Nield & Sons, druggists, 40 Shudehill, Manchester, has been proved by Mrs. Margaret Nield, the widow, and Mr. Frederick Nield, the brother of the testator, whose personal estate was sworn at 2,433*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

The will of Mr. Robert Ingram, chemist and druggist, who died at Mellbrook Road, Freemantle, on October 30, 1897, has been proved by Mr. George E. Richards and Mr. E. O. Richards, the executors. The testator's personality was sworn at 5,715*l.* 17*s.*

Letters of administration to the estate of Mr. George Henry Nelson, of Nelson, Dale & Co. (Limited), gelatin-manufacturers, Erriscote, who died on March 5, 1898, have been granted to the widow, Mrs. E. H. Nelson. The deceased's estate amounts to 82,232*l.*

The will of Mr. John Cripps, chemist and druggist, 18 Heathfield Terrace, Turnham Green, who died on April 26, has been proved by Edward Cullman, M.D., Mr. H. S. Daker, chemist's manager, 72 Euston Square, and Mr. W. T. Hamlin, 9 Fleet Street, by whom the testator's estate is sworn at 14,985*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, of which 11,108*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* is net personality.

FOURTEENTH OF JULY "DECORATIONS."—Chief Pharmacist Billaudeau of the French Navy, Principal Pharmacists Moissonier, of the Dey Military Hospital, Algiers, and Warnier, of the Invalides, as well as M. Moizard of the Military Sanitary Stores, and M. Mathieu, head of the Val-de-Grace School of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, were all promoted officers of the Legions of Honour on the occasion of the national *fête*.

The British Pharmacopœia, 1898. Comments and Criticisms.

Balsams, Resins, Gum-resins, and Milky Juices.

By KARL DIETERICH, Ph.D., Helfenberg.

AS I have lately discussed the methods of examining and determining the value of balsams, resins, gum-resins, and milky juices as we find them in the present German "Arzneibuch,"* and criticised the same, I naturally have a particular interest in the tests given in the British Pharmacopœia of 1898 as compared with those of the "Arzneibuch," especially respecting the resin-products. A complete comparison of the testing-directions of the resin-products of both Pharmacopœias cannot strictly be carried out, as the British Pharmacopœia enumerates by far more of them than the German "Arzneibuch." This explains itself by reason of the fact that in England some resin-products are used which are rarely or very little used in Germany, and *vice versa*. It is therefore necessary to adjust the species of resins to the requirements of the country—*e.g.*, whilst Canada balsam, scammony resin, and guaiacum resin are not enumerated in the "Arzneibuch," in the British Pharmacopœia dammar resin, frequently used by us, is absent. I may be allowed, before passing to the criticism and discussion of the resin-products, to mention that the British Pharmacopœia in its characters and tests for resin-products is far superior to the German "Arzneibuch." It is distinguished from the latter in not only considering qualitative tests, but also, in taking note of recent investigations and adopting a good many quantitative methods; and, on the whole, it strikes me that the whole plan of examination is characteristic of the ever-practical Englishman.

It is not possible for one to expect that a Pharmacopœia will adopt in full the oft troublesome and difficult technical methods, but no one will deny it is at last desirable to break away from traditional qualitative reactions, and, wherever possible, to adopt those that are quantitative. Whilst the German "Arzneibuch" only in rare cases gives definite methods for examining resin-products, and confines itself mostly to brief and vague descriptions, the British Pharmacopœia almost in every case gives descriptions of characters and also a method of testing. It is here that the German "Arzneibuch" has a good example set it, and I would commend the care with which the B.P. has distinguished the sources of these products, described their characters, and given generally reliable tests. It is here that a great superiority is observed in the B.P. over the "Arzneibuch." A further practical advantage in the British Pharmacopœia is that it is stated after each test to what it refers; it is, therefore, not necessary, as with the German "Arzneibuch," for one that is not quite sure of his ground to use a commentary. Here, again, the practical Englishman by far surpasses the German. In regard to the separate resin-products themselves, the British Pharmacopœia contains balsams, as well as resins, gum-resins, and milky juices. The plant-juices, such as aloes, catechu, kino, and the like, as well as extracts of plants (*e.g.*, ext. hyoscyami), do not belong to this category. The products upon which I wish to comment, and which are contained in the British Pharmacopœia, may usefully be classified as follows:—

Balsams

Balsam of Peru	Copaiba
Balsam of Tolu	Canada turpentine

* *Pharmaceutische Centralhalle*, 1898, Nos. 19, 20, 21.

Gum-resins

Scammony	Ammoniacum
Myrrh	Gamboge
Asafetida	Galbanum

Resins

Podophyllum resin	Guaiacum resin
Resin	Prepared storax
Scammony resin	* Benzoin
Jalap resin	

Milky Juice

Opium

It may first be noted that the British Pharmacopœia contains a larger number of balsams, resins, and gum-resins than the German "Arzneibuch."

BALSAMS.

As to the distinct methods of examination adopted by the British Pharmacopœia for testing the purity of resins, I observe that they are pretty nearly the same as those used by experienced analysts—*viz.*, provision is made for determining the acid-number, saponification-number, the amount of ash, the alcohol-soluble proportion, and—what is specially worthy of notice with the balsams and some of the resin-products—the optical rotations and the boiling-points of the essential oils obtained from them. But it must be observed that, what is of great importance for the final result, an exact method of isolating the oils in question is missing. In what follows I desire to speak of the separate resin-products, and to make some propositions that may be useful for a new edition of the British Pharmacopœia.

Copaiba.—With copaiba, like balsam of Peru, a qualitative investigation is quite out of the question. It has been shown that a genuine copaiba is as rare in the market as a true Peruvian balsam. For this reason, therefore, the valuation and testing of copaiba should be directed to ascertain whether the balsam is free from the gross adulteration which may be effected in the ordinary way of commerce, and whether the principal active constituents are present in highest possible quantity and not reduced by sophistication. The most searching tests in use are the opicity of the essential oils, as well as the determination of the boiling-points of the same. These are recognised by the B.P., which, however, should add an exact method for isolating the oil. Instead of the qualitative testing for gurjun balsam, it would be more practical to introduce the quantitative method, and certainly the estimation of the acid and the saponification-numbers. In regard to the sp. gr., closer limits should be laid down so as to admit only the thick balsams—*e.g.*, the Maracaibo balsams of 0.980 to 0.990. If this were done the quantitative determination would be far easier. The light fluid Para balsam, as well as the Maturin balsam, should be excluded, as in efficacy they are well known to be far behind the Maracaibo balsam. The manner of determining the acid and saponification numbers I have already described in my criticism of the German "Arzneibuch" (*Pharmaceutische Centralhalle*, 1898, No. 19).

In regard to calling the balsam an "oleo-resin," I may remark that this name is not at all appropriate; for, since balsam of Peru is a "balsam" because it is a mixture of fluid and solid constituents, so also must copaiba be classified with the "balsams," and not with the "oleo-resins," or, as the German Pharmacopœia has it, as a "resin-juice" (*harzsaft*).

Balsam of Peru.—Compared with the German "Arzneibuch" the British Pharmacopœia exhibits a marked advance in its requirements for this balsam, as it insists upon a certain proportion of cinnamoin and specific saponification-number

* Benzoin will be the subject of a separate and later article.

for that constituent. The qualitative tests might be left out of the next edition, as they are totally unreliable, and do not necessarily distinguish a true balsam of Peru. Instead of these qualitative tests I would suggest that the next edition should provide for determination of the acid, ester, and saponification numbers, and the amount of resin-ester, as well as cinnamein, should also be determined; but it would be advisable to exclude the saponification-number of the cinnamein, which is superfluous. It is not possible to define briefly the methods of determining the factors recommended, but I have gone fully into the matter in the paper already mentioned.

Balsam of Tolu.—A commencement has been made with quantitative methods by giving a superficial determination of the saponification-number. Here I would also propose that the acid-number should be added, and that both figures should be determined by exact methods.

Canada Turpentine.—It is not clear why the British Pharmacopœia should denote as "terebinthina" Canada balsam, which is a true balsam. In any case one has to look for the grounds for this designation, and we may fairly assume that because Canada balsam is a fir-resin it is referred to the class of turpentine; but, in my opinion, this is wrong, as the name "balsam" does not refer to the source of the article, but to its character. From that point of view the article should be classed along with copaiba balsam and balsam of Peru, and the title altered from "Terebinthina Canadensis" to "Balsamum Canadense." The characters and tests given for the substance may be considered sufficient, as it is chiefly used for technical purposes.

RESINS.

The number of resins in the British Pharmacopœia is greater than in the German "Arzneibuch." The testing of podophyllum, scammony, and jalap resins is of minor importance, when it is considered that the precise conditions of manufacture (which are good on the whole) are laid down, and the tests may be said to be provisionally sufficient.

Resin, guaiacum resin, and prepared storax are the other resins in the B.P. It may be remarked generally that as the prepared storax is recognised it would have been well if crude storax also had a place in the book. It is also noticeable that the pharmaceutically most important turpentine is conspicuous by their absence from the B.P. I now comment upon the special resin-products recognised.

Resina.—It is a pity that the British Pharmacopœia has not adopted the name "colophonium" for this substance. The same name is unwarrantably adopted in German manufactures, and it is regrettable that it is so. One refers to the residue of turpentine distillation by the name "resin," whereas "colophonium" is the proper name. The use of such a generic term as "resin" to designate colophonium is improper, and it has given rise to many mistakes. In the same way as the British Pharmacopœia speaks of resina scammonii and resina jalapæ should it also speak of resina terebinthinæ, or, what would be better, "colophonium." The characters and tests under "Resina" provide for an article which does not at present exist. It is impossible to get colophony which on burning will yield "no appreciable ash." As colophony is one of the pharmaceutically important resins it is absolutely necessary that a determination of its acid-number should be provided for. I have given particulars of a method in *Pharm. Centr.* 1898, No. 20.

Guaiaci resina.—It is known that different kinds of guaiacum resin are in the market, one class consisting of resin purified with alcohol, and the other an unpurified resin in lump. These kinds are distinguished, as I showed in the *Helfenberger Annalen* for 1897, by their different acid-

numbers.† The sort in tears, which is considered to be the purest, is to-day almost unknown in commerce. It would be advisable to lay down in the Pharmacopœia the following limits (acid-numbers) for the respective kinds of guaiacum resin—for the crude lump 90 to 95, for the alcohol-purified 90 to 100, and for the natural tears 70 to 75. It should also be stated that guaiacum resin is almost free from ash. Owing to the frequent adulteration of guaiacum resin with colophony, determination of its acid-number is an actual necessity, and for that reason alone the test should be made official.

Storax.—We ought not to ignore the fact that storax is one of the oldest and certainly most useful pharmaceutical resins. Here the British Pharmacopœia requires an important extension in the examination of the resin. It merely confines itself to a description of how the drug is purified by treatment with alcohol, and gives no test whatever. I should like to show that it is extremely inadvisable to purify storax with alcohol, because, during evaporation of the solvent, some of the volatile constituents of the resin are dissipated, and in my experience this loss cannot be prevented easily. The only rational method of purification would be with ether in place of alcohol. Here it may be objected—and I admit the objection—that evaporation of the ether is dangerous unless conducted in separate large apartments for the purpose.

As to the characters and tests for storax I would note that a limit of moisture, say, not exceeding 8 per cent., should be introduced by the B.P.; also that it should yield no ash on incineration, and that the alcohol-soluble content should be fixed by determining how much insoluble matter remains after alcohol has dissolved out all that it can. As before stated, crude storax should be admitted; in that case, too, a limit of moisture (3 per cent.) is required, as also alcohol-insoluble and alcohol-soluble matter, the latter being not less than 70 per cent.

I need not go into the non-recognition of other turpentine by the British Pharmacopœia, for I have given in the *Phar. Centralth.* 1898, No. 20, sufficient reasons for official definition of terebinthina communis and terebinthina venetia in places where these are in common use as medicines.

GUM-RESINS.

I come now to the discussion of gum-resins, and here I find, in comparison with the German "Arzneibuch," little progress to be noted. I have also some proposals to make for improving or completing the monographs on the gum-resins. There can be no doubt that the testing of these substances is of the highest importance, because they are subject to extraordinary fluctuation in composition, and are frequently freely adulterated with foreign gum-resins, &c.

We find the same gum-resins in the British Pharmacopœia as in the German "Arzneibuch," but there are two, gamboge and scammonium, which are in the former exclusively. For these I would be content with the methods of testing which are in the B.P. The others are dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.

Ammoniacum.—The B.P. recognises ammoniacum in mass as well as in tears. I cannot agree with this selection, because for pharmaceutical purposes only ammoniacum rich in essential oil and of strong odour should be admitted, conditions which only obtain in the mass or block-ammoniacum. I would only, therefore, admit that kind into the B.P. The test given for distinction of the gum-resin from asafetida and galbanum—viz., freedom of ammoniacum from umbelliferone—I am unable to speak favourably of, because it is possible to add small percentages of galbanum to ammoniacum without detecting it in the

B.P. way; moreover, the value of the test depends greatly upon the manner in which the gum-resin is heated. A much more scientific test, and one capable of detecting 2 per cent. of galbanum with certainty, is that proposed by me (*Helf. Ann.* 1897, page 332)—viz., to treat the substance with strong hydrochloric acid, whereby umbelliferone is split off from its natural ester, the liquid is then filtered, and the filtrate (which contains the umbelliferone) is supersaturated with ammonia, when an intense and characteristic blue fluorescence is produced. The same method may be used for the identification of asafetida and galbanum. Besides this umbelliferone reaction the Pharmacopœia should prescribe the limit of matter in ammoniacum which is insoluble in alcohol, and also limit the amount of ash. I consider 10 per cent. of ash to be the maximum. In my opinion, the residue left after treatment with alcohol and drying at 100° C. should not be more than 50 per cent. With resins as well as with gum-resins it is more practicable to determine the amount of matter insoluble in alcohol, as in drying the soluble part at 100° C. there is always considerable loss of volatile constituents, while the residue is practically devoid of such bodies, so that in drying the insoluble residue we lose nothing and get the soluble portion by difference.

Galbanum.—What I have remarked regarding ammoniacum is equally applicable to galbanum. The gum-resin in lump or mass is to be preferred to that which comes into the market in tears. My own method of detecting umbelliferone is preferable to the B.P. one, for the reasons already stated. It would be advisable to add to the tests a limit of ash, 10 per cent., and of alcohol-insoluble matter. In my experience 50 per cent. is the highest amount of the latter compatible with average purity.

Myrrh.—Here also the Pharmacopœia should have fixed limits for ash and matter insoluble in alcohol. For ash 10 per cent. as a maximum, and for the alcohol-insoluble portion 70 per cent. the highest figure.

Asafetida.—All that I have said regarding ammoniacum and galbanum in tears and mass is equally applicable to asafetida, which is much richer in lump, as found in commerce, than in detached tears. The objection to the umbelliferone reaction as described in the B.P. also applies; by splitting up the ester with hydrochloric acid we get a sharper and more distinct reaction. In my experience the percentage of alcohol-soluble matter in asafetida prescribed by the British Pharmacopœia—65 per cent.—is too high, and 50 per cent. is more consistent with indirect determinations made by estimating the amount of alcohol-insoluble matter. The limit of ash (10 per cent.) is right, and should be adhered to.

MILKY JUICES.

Opium is the most important milky juice described in the British Pharmacopœia, and the method for determining the morphine in it closely resembles that devised by E. Dieterich and official in our "Arzneibuch"; but I ought to remark on one advantage of the B.P. process which shows progress—viz., that the crystalline morphine is washed with morphinated water, so that none of it is dissolved in the washing as would be the case were the water not already saturated with morphia. I should recommend this to be adopted in the German "Arzneibuch," also that a step further should be taken—viz., to saturate the water with ether as well as with morphine. In this connection compare the article in *Süd-deutsche Apotheker-zeitung*, 1897, No. 47.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that I consider, as indeed I have already said, that the British Pharmacopœia, so far as those matters upon which I have commented are concerned, is not far off the mark, and if it is not quite up

to the level of research-laboratories in regard to assay-processes, the fact has to be kept in mind that it is not the place of a Pharmacopœia to be so, but to choose from approved quantitative methods those ready ones which give approximately accurate results. I certainly think that the German "Arzneibuch" may take a lesson from the British Pharmacopœia in this respect.

Helfenberg, near Dresden, June 15, 1898.

The Dentist's Point of View.

MR. W. RUSHTON, in the *British Journal of Dental Science*, notices the omission of dec. papaveris, which, however, he thinks the public will still continue to use for the purpose of drawing alveolar abscesses "to burst on the face." The new liquor caoutchouc, made by dissolving 1 oz. of caoutchouc in 20 gr. of equal parts of benzol and bisulphide of carbon, does not resemble the liquor dentists use for waterproofing a weeping surface or leaky rubber dam, which is a solution of red vulcanising-rubber dissolved in chloroform.

Glycerinum ac. borici is supposed (Mr. Rushton says) to resemble "boroglyceride," and is useful in stomatitis and aptha. Liq. hydrogenii peroxidi, now official, is used by dentists as a test for pus, and as an injection for putrid pulp-canals. Naphthol (beta-naphthol) is a powerful antiseptic, and largely used for filling pulp-canals. Salol, an antiseptic and antipyretic, makes a capital mouthwash for odorous breath due to bad teeth, smoking, &c. Tr. quillaire, the basis of many frothing liquid dentifrices such as "Floriline," is new. Ext. physostigmatis has been reduced one-fourth its strength. This extract has lately been recommended as a valuable addition to arsenious acid to minimise pain in nerve devitalisation. Acid. sulphuricum aromaticum, used as an application in pyorrhœa alveolaris, contains a larger proportion of oil of cinnamon. Argenti nitras induratus should prove a useful preparation in stick form for touching sensitive dentine, and for applying to ulcers, &c. Linimentum iodi, beloved of dentists as an application for pericementitis, is now no more; its name has been altered to liq. iodi fortis. Syr. ferri phosphatis contains about a third less acid than formerly, and will have a less decalcifying action on the teeth of children. Tincture of aconite is weaker, being now 1 in 20. Fleming's tincture, which is usually prescribed by dentists as being stronger, is not official. Tincture of myrrh is nearly twice as strong as formerly, as it is now 1 in 5 instead of 1 in 8. Aconitine ointment, sometimes prescribed as an application for trigeminal neuralgia, is now stronger, being 1 in 50 instead of 1 in 60. The changes which affect dentists are not, the author concludes, either numerous or startling, and will doubtless be followed by new editions of dental materia medica text-books in due course.

THE imports of drugs and chemicals into Bremen in 1897 were 27,743,095*l.*, and the exports 29,711,682*l.* Great Britain's share of the imports was 2,960,801*l.*

THE RÖNTGEN SOCIETY have appointed a committee of inquiry into the alleged injurious effects of x-rays. The committee are collecting evidence of injury caused to patients by exposure to the rays, and workers are invited to send information of any cases they may have come across, and would care to give particulars of.

CHAMELEON-PAPER.—A French chemist has lately succeeded in manufacturing a paper having the property of changing its colour. The paper is made by coating the surface with a thin turpentine, or benzene-damar-varnish. When the composition becomes dry it forms a transparent glaze, and so, acting like a soap-bubble, gives rise to a variety of fleeting hues.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re GEORGE JOPE, 187 Chepstow Road, Newport, Mon., late Chemist, Druggist, &c.

THE gross liabilities in this case amount to 321*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* (unsecured, 307*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*), and assets estimated to produce 32*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* The Official Receiver, in his observations, states that the receiving order was made on the debtor's own petition. The debtor had informed him that he started business in 1864, at Minehead, Somersetshire, as a chemist, druggist, and grocer, with 235*l.* capital. He traded there for three years, when he closed the business, sold the stock, and realised sufficient to pay his debts in full. During the next twenty-seven years he held situations as chief clerk to wholesale grocers at Exeter, Farnham, and Cardiff. In February, 1894, he removed to Newport, where he has since carried on business as a traveller and commission-agent in coal, meal, condiments, &c., representing four agencies, from which he earned about 25*s.* weekly. When he came to Newport he had no capital, and has never been possessed of any since. He attributes his failure to "illness of his wife for eighteen months, loss by becoming surety, and bad trade." He first became aware of his insolvency about four years ago, and has since then contracted debts to the extent of about 120*l.*, which are still owing.

Re STEPHEN ARMSTRONG, Bakewell, Druggist.

THE public examination of this debtor was held at the Derby Bankruptcy Court, on Tuesday last, before the Registrar. Replying to questions put by the Official Receiver, the debtor stated that he commenced business in February, 1896, having previously been an assistant in the drug-trade. He had 295*l.* capital at the time, of which 265*l.* was paid to Messrs. E. & W. Pearson for the purchase of the business, and the stock at valuation. The stock was valued at 205*l.*, and was to be paid for by instalments. About 50*l.* was still owing in respect of that. The deficiency amounted to 299*l.*, so that he had lost 594*l.* in about two and a half years. The cause of this was great competition, of which he was not aware when he purchased the business, which never at any time paid. He had recourse to a Manchester money-lender, from whom he borrowed 100*l.*, to be repaid within three years with 80*l.* interest. The debtor was eventually allowed to pass his examination.

Re WILLIAM U. ATHERTON, late of Mincing Lane, Chemical-broker.

THIS bankrupt attended on Wednesday, before Mr. Registrar Giffard, at the London Bankruptcy Court, and was allowed to pass his public examination upon accounts showing liabilities 10 254*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, ranking against assets, 2*l.*

In the course of his evidence the bankrupt said he was a partner in the firm of Gregory & Co., chemical-brokers, 10 & 11 Mincing Lane, E.C. He was only a sleeping-partner, but Mr. Gregory, his brother-in-law, had had considerable experience of the trade. Witness joined the firm in 1895, and the business went on until the end of 1896. His present liabilities almost entirely related to another business at Poplar, in which he had been a partner with his brother Stanley and a Mr. Dolman. Although he retired from that firm in favour of his brother, and left his capital of 6,500*l.* for the continuance of the business, they had been made bankrupt, and he had lost the whole of his money. Only 250*l.* of his present debts had reference to the Mincing Lane business, but his losses therein amounted to about 900*l.* Since March 1897 he had been out of business altogether. The examination was ordered to be concluded.

IN cases where lime is accidentally introduced into the eye the use of water should be avoided. The best thing for washing out the eye is a pure heavy petroleum oil. The use of a few drops of syrup has also been recommended, the object being to form a soluble compound with the remaining particles of lime.

Deeds of Arrangement.

Brown, William Edmund, 19 Aughton Street, Ormskirk, veterinary surgeon. Trustee, Peter Freeman, Railway Road, Ormskirk, accountant. Dated, July 11; filed, July 16. Liabilities unsecured, 536*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*; estimated net assets, 280*l.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Anderton, Dr., Ormskirk	15	0	0
Clay, Dod & Co., Liverpool	56	0	0
Coulton, T., Ormskirk	16	0	0
Earl of Derby, Preseot	75	0	0
Essex, B. S. (Secretary of, &c.), London	20	0	0
Forrest, J., Lydiate	21	0	0
Garside, S. A., Ormskirk	73	0	0
Newsham, W., Ormskirk	29	0	0
Nunnerley, J. I., Ormskirk	12	0	0
Poole, E. A., Ormskirk	26	0	0
Roughley, W., Ormskirk	27	0	0
Smith, Miss, Ormskirk	32	0	0
Twist, W. O., Ormskirk	19	0	0

Lawry, Samuel Charles, residing at 13 Hayter Road, Brixton, and late trading with Albert Henry Labern and Alfred James Maltster, at Harp Works, Jenner Road, Stoke Newington, as "H. Labern & Son," wholesale perfumer and fancy-goods dealer. Trustee, George G. Poppleton, 164 Aldersgate Street, E.C., chartered accountant. Dated, July 12; filed, July 14. Liabilities unsecured, 3,311*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; estimated net assets, 2,250*l.* Deed supplemental to deed of assignment dated March 25 and filed April 1, 1898, the said Samuel Charles Lawry not having executed the former indenture, and now confirming the same. Note.—The liabilities and assets relate to the late firm of H. Labern & Son.

McKellar, Alexander Oberlin, 79 Wimpole Street, surgeon. Trustee, Frederick Isitt, 6 Old Jewry, City, chartered accountant. Dated, July 13; filed, July 15. Secured creditors, 100*l.*; liabilities unsecured, 3,453*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*; estimated net assets, 700*l.* Assignment upon trust, &c., also covenant by debtor to pay the sum of 50*l.* monthly out of his salary as police surgeon, commencing July 1, 1898, with a view to payment of creditors in full. (No list of creditors filed.)

Moore, John William, 10 Tontine Square, and 8 East View, Hanley, chemist and druggist. Trustee, Henry W. Figgins, 12 Cheapside, Hanley, accountant. Dated July 7; filed July 14. Secured creditors, 20*l.*; liabilities unsecured, 2,180*l.*; estimated net assets, 180*l.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Allbut & Daniel, Hanley	10	0	0
Barron, Harveys & Co., London	27	0	0
Blakemore, Mrs., Hanley	222	0	0
Cooke, J. R., Hanley	80	0	0
Dyer, T., Northampton	137	0	0
Evans, Sons, & Co., Liverpool	71	0	0
Fallowfield, J., London	19	0	0
Fenton, J. T., Hanley	20	0	0
Gibbs, Ouxon, & Co., Wednesbury	36	0	0
Goodson, J., Hanley	13	0	0
Hearon, Squire & Co., London	58	0	0
Hitchings, J., Hanley	17	0	0
Levi, J., & Co., London	59	0	0
Maw, Son, & Thompson, London	45	0	0
Moore, Mrs. H., Northampton	30	0	0
Sentine! (Proprietors of), Hanley	10	0	0
Wilkinson, J. F., Manchester	15	0	0
Wood, Mrs., Stoke-on-Trent	52	0	0
Woolley, Sons & Co., Manchester	28	0	0
Yardley & Co., London	12	0	0
Bankers' claims	220	0	0

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Abbott, E., and Anning, J. J., under the style of Abbott & Anning, Leeds, chemists and druggists.

Blomfield, G. W., and Blomfield, E. E., under the style of Messrs. G. W. & E. E. Blomfield, Knottingley and Pontefract, physicians and surgeons.

Poulter, A. H., and Bell, R., under the style of The Balmoral Cordial Company, Dalling Road, Shepherd's Bush, W., manufacturers of cordials and non-alcoholic drinks.

Stokes, H. J., and Stokes, H. F., under the style of Messrs. Stokes, surgeons and general medical practitioners.

Walker, W., and Parker, W., under the style of Walker & Parker, Coventry, mineral-water manufacturers.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Hadingham, John Wells, Battersea Park Road, S.W., one of the executors of the estate of Charles Hadingham (deceased), and carrying on business with Thomas Page Hadingham, the other executor, under the style of Charles Hadingham's Executors, at Beccles, chemist's assistant.

ADJUDICATION.

McPhail, Thomas Robinson, carrying on business alone under the style of T. R. McPhail & Co., Liverpool, chemical-broker.

ORDER MADE ON APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE.

Montague, Charles (otherwise Napoleon Hirschfeld, otherwise Charles Ashley), Red Lion Square, and 4 Sangora Road, Clapham, S.W., late Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, W.C., patent-medicine proprietor and specialist in cures for rheumatism—discharge refused.

Business Changes.

Notices of changes in the retail trade, and opening of new businesses, are inserted in this section free of charge, if properly authenticated.

MR. H. E. NOBLE, chemist, Peterborough, has opened branch premises in West Gate.

MR. B. H. RANDALL, chemist and druggist, Bournemouth, is about to open branch premises at 5 Clarendon Mansions.

MR. THOMAS DAYKIN, chemist and druggist, of Broughton-in-Furness, has purchased the business lately carried on by Mr. Charles Senior at Dalton-in-Furness.

THE business lately carried on by Mr. W. Ballard, chemist and druggist, at 126 Newington Causeway, for many years, has been transferred to the Reynolds Gout-specific Company.

MR. A. J. POWELL, chemist, formerly of Stanningley, near Leeds, has purchased the business at 312 Wakefield Road, Bradford, lately carried on by Mr. G. Slade Gill, trading as the Botanic Drug Company.

MESSRS. BOOTS, cash chemists, have secured the shop at the corner of Oxford Street and St. Peter's Square, Manchester, opposite the Prince's Theatre, which they will convert into a pharmacy in the course of a few days.

THE original Idris business at 818 Holloway Road, N., has changed hands frequently during the past ten years. It has now been acquired by Mr. W. G. Blackham, opposite, a stores-chemist, who has made things warm for the other chemists in the neighbourhood. This move in competition has not, however, been unchallenged, as Parke's Drug-stores (Limited) have taken 804 Holloway Road, a corner shop in the next block, which they are fitting up, and will open shortly.

A COMPANY will shortly be formed in Dublin under the title of Hugh Moore & Alexanders (Limited), with the object of carrying on the old-established drug-business of Hugh Moore & Co., Linen Hall, Dublin. The capital is 130,000*l.*, and amongst the directorate appear the names of Messrs. M. Goodbody, W. Alexander, and P. Robinson. The profits of the business for the past five years have averaged over 46,000*l.* per annum, and the aggregate purchase-money has been fixed at 100,000*l.* Messrs. W. J. McNeight and W. F. Moore will act as managing directors for five years.

NORTH LONDON PHARMACY.—Well-dressed Customer: "I want a small quantity of erysipelas oil." She got eucalyptus oil, and was satisfied.

LITTLE GIRL (to clergyman): "Please, sir, mother sent me to tell you that father is dead." Clergyman: "Is he? Did you call a doctor?" Little Girl: "No, sir; he just died of himself."

Personalities.

PROFESSOR J. REYNOLDS GREEN, F.R.S., has now added the examinership in botany to the University of Aberdeen to his list of such appointments.

DR. BÜTTINGER, chemist to Friederich Bayer & Co., Elberfeld, celebrated his birthday the other week, and received from his employers a gift of 20,000*m.*

MR. E. C. C. STANFORD, F.I.C., has been elected chairman of the Vanguara Silk Company (Limited), of Glasgow, the company which is exploiting Mr. Millar's patent for the production of artificial silk from gelatin.

MR. W. D. SMITH, of the firm of W. E. Smith & Co., pharmaceutical and manufacturing chemists, Madras, expects to be in London about August 1. His address will be "c/o Messrs. J. Murdoch & Co., Sussex House, 52 Leadenhall Street, E.C."

MR. HERBERT CARLTON, chemist and druggist, Horn-castle, is bandmaster of the Horncastle Amateur Orchestral Band, of which Miss Marie Corelli spoke in such terms of warm praise in an interview published in this month's *Strand Magazine*.

"SIR WILLIAM CROOKES, who is the President of the British Association this year, is more than ordinarily busy with his presidential address, which will be delivered early in September. We understand that it is likely to be of a startling character."—*Daily Chronicle*.

MR. ALFRED B. EVANS, the managing director of Evans & Sons (Limited), Montreal, arrived in England with his wife and family, per *Majestic*, on Wednesday last, and will spend a few weeks in the Mother Country. Letters may be addressed to him, c/o Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool.

DR. KINGSBURY, of Blackpool, who benefits to the extent of some 30,000*l.* by the will of his late patient, Miss Howard, is the gentleman who two years ago got a verdict against the *British Medical Journal* for stating that his conduct in allowing his name to be advertised in connection with a hydropathic institute was unprofessional. The will case was chiefly remarkable for the suggestions made as to the possibility of the improper use of a hypnotic power—a power which Dr. Kingsbury was said to be possessed of in a remarkable degree. Dr. Kingsbury was a little severe when asked by the opposing counsel if he did not find weak-minded people his best subjects, replying that his best had been members of the Manchester bar. Mr. Carson also asked if the opinion was not held by some medical men that hypnotism undermined the health and morals. He replied, "Yes, by some of the ignorant men," and subsequently included in this category Sir Andrew Clark and Dr. B. W. Richardson, although he qualified his assertion by saying he only implied they were ignorant on this point.



DR. KINGSBURY.

"THE active part that Mr. Wellcome and Professor Power [as members of the General Committee of the American Society in London, which is founding a *Maine* memorial] are taking in the movement is deserving of the warmest praise. By their work in this matter they are doing their duty as true patriots, and they are doing their duty as well to the memory of their fellow-graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, Walter S. Sellers, '96, who, as apothecary on board the *Maine*, faced death and met it for his country's sake."—*Alumni Report*.

DRUGS to the value of 72,426*l.* were shipped to Barcelona in 1897 against 49,833*l.* in 1896, and chemical products 244,043*l.* compared with 125,996*l.* in 1896.

Correspondence.

In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with

Notice to Correspondents. *or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.*

Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.

The Distribution of Poisons.

SIR,—I have undertaken to read a paper on "The Distribution of Poisons" before the Hygienic Congress, which holds its meetings in Dublin next month.

I will be obliged by any vouched information as to method of distribution, and quantities distributed, of "poisonous substances" by public bodies, and of accidents through ignorant or careless distribution of "poisons" and "poisonous substances"; also as to what suggestions can be made as to a definition of "wholesale dealing" as distinct from retail, or a definition of strength as bringing a "poisonous substance" to the rank of "poison."

I am writing somewhat hastily to catch post, but think I mention points which need consideration.

Yours truly,

ROBERT J. DOWNES,
President.

P.S.—I would also be obliged by vouched cases of accidents averted by the "competent knowledge" of the qualified "seller."

R. J. D.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland,
67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin,
July 18.

Liq. Strychninæ Hydrochlor.

SIR,—Mr. Lunan strains at a gnat. B.P., 1885, says of the above solution: "The strength is about 1 in 100"—near enough—not "1 in 108 of alkaloid," as he states in last paragraph of letter to you last week.

10 New Cavendish Street, W., WM. MARTINDALE,
July 11.

The Company Clause.

SIR,—I am delighted to see that steps are to be taken to endeavour to put an end to drug-company trading. Strenuous opposition on the part of the companies must be expected to this measure, and we, the individual traders, will have to work very hard to ensure the insertion of the clause in the Act and its passing. May I suggest that as soon as it is about to be brought forward every chemist should write to the member of Parliament representing him, urging him to support the measure and fully explaining to him the reasons for his doing so? Also, could you not yourself initiate a crusade in its favour? Funds, I am sure, would not be wanting. I, for one, should be only too glad to contribute, and in the event of a fund being formed for that purpose you may put my name down for a couple of guineas.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. FARROW.

45 High Street, Old Brompton, Kent,
July 19.

SIR,—In your editorial comments last week you hit the right nail on the head when you said, "the opportunity now offers itself of raising before Parliament the grievance which has troubled us so long; the opportunity may never recur."

It is high time this injustice was remedied, and unqualified companies, backed up by capitalism, prevented from practising on other men's qualifications. I hope the chemists throughout the country will move in the matter, as they did in the Poisonous Substances Bill.

With two of the greatest legal authorities on our side now is the time for action, and I hope, Mr. Editor, if necessary, you will issue a leaflet stating the facts of the case, as you did in the Poisons Bill.

Yours truly,

QUALIFIED CHEMIST. (245/17.)

The Ex Milk of Sulphur.

SIR,—Re the lac sulphuris, P.I., difficulty. I would suggest that those chemists who still wish to sell the old-fashioned article might label and sell it as "milk of brimstone." This might afford a creep-hole.

Yours,

July 19.

G. H. B. (245/15.)

[Ingenious; and to those people, and there are such, whose passionate desire in life is to do what the law says they must not do, the suggestion may be useful. But is the game worth the candle?—ED. C. & D.]

Dispensing Notes.

This section is intended for the elucidation of dispensing difficulties. Subscribers and their employes may contribute to it, criticising any of the following notes or contributing notes on prescriptions which they have found to be of unusual interest.

Mixture or Drops?

SIR,—Will you kindly say whether the following prescription should be labelled "The mixture" or "The drops"?

Tr. camph. co.	...	...	...	...	3ss.
Vin. ipecac.	...	...	...	...	3ss.
Syr. scillæ	...	...	...	...	5ij.
Glycerini	...	...	...	...	3ss.
Aq. ad	...	...	...	...	5ij.

Sig.: One teaspoonful in a little water every three or four hours.

Yours sincerely,

APPRENTICE. (237/18.)

["The Mixture." You will only use "The Drops" when the mixture is to be taken in drops.]

Creosote Pills.

SIR,—Will you kindly tell me the best, or a good, expedient to use in dispensing the undermentioned prescription?—

Iodoform.	...	...	...	...	gr. xxxvj.
Creosoti	...	...	...	...	℥℥iv.

Divide in pil. xxxvj.

Yours truly,

FEMUR. (239/54.)

[Warm the creosote with 5j. of powdered curd-soap in a water-bath until combined. When cold mix with the iodoform, and add a little kieselguhr if necessary to make the mass stiffer.]

Bursts the Bottle.

SIR,—We have made the following mixture several times without anything going wrong. We sent it again this morning, and were told it burst a few hours afterwards:—

Ol. terebinth.	...	...	...	...	5j.
P. acaciæ	...	...	...	...	gr. xl.
Mist. amygdal. ad...	...	...	...	...	5vj.

We shall be much obliged if you will explain this.

Very faithfully,

{NEMO. (243/6.)

[Fermentation, accelerated by the hot weather, is doubtless the cause of the bottle bursting.]

Legal Queries.

We do not give legal opinions by post. Information regarding most legal matters in connection with pharmacy will be found in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, and in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," and Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty."

239/60. W. J.—The law does not prescribe how a recipe must be written, nor is it necessary that it should.

245/54. J. M.—We know of no revenue-tax on proprietary medicines in India. Veterinary medicines are not liable to medicine-stamp duty in this country.

241/9. *Nitrous Oxide*.—We can quite understand a medical man declining to administer gas while an unqualified man extracts teeth. There is no specific law on the subject, but the circumstances might be such as to bring the medical man under the censure of the Medical Council.

240/22. *Woodward*.—You have no legal claim for holidays, unless they were specifically promised.

240/20. *Rheumatism*.—No chemist can be compelled to give a copy of a prescription, and if he says he has not got it we do not see what can be done but believe him. We do not know the doctor named, and presume he is no longer living; if he is, your customer should go to him and pay him a fee.

235/72. *Nemo*.—If the will has been proved, you or anybody can see a copy of it by paying 1s. at Somerset House. You may have to pay another 1s. to see the disposition of the property, and if you require a copy you will have to pay, perhaps, 5s. to 10s. (according to the length).

235/6. *Unquendum*.—Whether the proprietary article is the property of the firm is a question of fact depending on the circumstances. If it is, in the event of dissolution of partnership provision should be made for one of the parties to retain it. If nothing is said or done, both partners would be equally entitled to the property unless one can establish superior rights.

218/37. *Nomen*.—The Board of Inland Revenue will grant a temporary wine-retailer's licence if you can get two local magistrates to endorse your application. It is not necessary to employ a solicitor to get the licence for you. See THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, or get instructions from your Excise officer. If yours is (as we presume it is) a yearly tenancy, you must give six months' notice to determine it, such notice to expire at the same quarter-day as that on which the tenancy was commenced.

245/5. *Monte Cristo*.—We cannot see any reason why the decision in the Chemists' Company case (Pharmaceutical Society v. London and Provincial Supply Association, Limited) should not apply to dentists as well. That is to say, we think it would be held on that precedent that a company is outside the Dentists Act, and could not be fined for describing itself as a dentist. If this theory is right, the presence of a qualified dentist in the company, or even as a manager, is in no respect necessary. But we think it right to caution you that if you attempt to get round the Act in this way you may be attacked, and we at any rate, shall be delighted to hear of the defeat of your company.

244/15. *Cinchona*.—You will find particulars of the registration of trade-marks in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, page 214.

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We reply to subscribers and their employees only upon subjects of interest to other readers generally. When more than one query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper.

Notice to Querists. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and it must be distinctly labelled. Queries are not replied to by post, and those sent anonymously are disregarded.

218/37. *Nomen*.—You will not be wrong if you allow the retailer 25 per cent. off the face-price and the wholesaler another 10 per cent. This, as you know, is more than is allowed in articles of large sale.

240/29. *Body*.—The sample of syrup-like body you send, used for giving body and fulness to mineral waters, and which does not yield alcohol, is a variety of dextrose. Such substances, consisting chiefly of unfermentable bodies, are prepared by subjecting glucose or dextrose to the continued action of dilute sulphuric acid, higher hydrated carbohydrates being formed. There are, we believe, patent-rights in some of these preparations.

242/23. *Leamington* sends us a list of seventeen medicinal plants, and asks us to classify them, giving natural order and habitat. If the art of getting on consists, as some say, in the cheap employment of other people's brains, this young man is well on the way to become a millionaire. The information asked for is obtainable from most works on materia medica.

242/49. *X. Y.*—Infusion of *adonis vernalis* is made from the stalks and leaves (1 in 50). The following is a suitable mixture for epilepsy for boy of 16 as suggestion in *C. & D.*, July 9, page 60:—

Sodii bromid.	...	...	...	5ij.
Codeia	...	...	...	gr. iij.
Spt. chlorof.	...	...	...	5ss.
Inf. <i>adonis vernalis</i> ad	...	...	...	5vj.

3ss. t.d.s.

The bromide will probably need the dose increasing.

243/26. *Gum*.—(1) Cudding-powder, for loss of appetite in cattle:—

Powdered capsicum	...	...	...	gr. xv.
Nitre	...	...	...	5j.
Fenugreek	...	...	...	5ss.
Linseed-meal	...	...	...	5j.

Mix.

To be given in a quart of warm beer in the morning or at night when necessary.

(2) Two drops of hypophosphorous acid will preserve your Easton's-syrup mixture. (3) Formalin and chloroform are good preservers for vegetable infusions. You will find information on the use of the former in *C. & D.*, February 26, 1898, page 356.

242/15. *O. J.*—Water-glass used for egg-preserving is sometimes sent out very thick, and then needs the addition of some water to reduce it to the thinness of weak syrup.

242/56. *R. W.*—See reply to "O. J." (242/15). Do not trouble about the eggs you have preserved with thick water-glass not drying; they will be all right if kept in a cool place, as the coating makes them airtight.

238/56. *Sevins*.—(1) "Going to Dairy" and "Coming in Season" are two of the many provincial phrases used to indicate the approach of the oestral period in the lower animals. The only effectual means of preventing the condition is the removal of the ovaries or "spaying," although if the animal is kept in low condition it may to some extent be kept in abeyance. (2) To Prevent Flies Attacking Cattle try the following:—Digest *asafetida* 5ss. in 1 pint of a cheap mineral oil at boiling-point for fifteen minutes, and add $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of turpentine. This mixture to be smeared occasionally along the back and sides during the hot weather.

239/52. *A. S.*—The preservative used in the jar of cream is boracic acid.

242/59. *Boric*.—The preserving-powder for butchers' meat consists of equal parts of boric acid and borax.

238/51. *Star X*.—(1) We could probably tell you the directions on the prescription if we saw the original; much detail is lost in your copy. (2) The milk-preservative is mainly boric acid with about a third its weight of borax. The price you say it is sold at is not remunerative.

Information Wanted.

The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.

243/70. Maker's name and address of Eucathymen.

242/13. Makers of diamond-shape fibre nail-brush, reg. 295,579.

20/7. Where can "Osteinar," a food, be obtained?

245/11. Address of Berndt & Co., makers of blue-stone pencils.

Commercial Notes.

GERMAN TRADE METHODS IN CHINA.

The skill of Germans in obtaining foreign trade is well known. Occasionally, however, new and interesting details of their methods come to light. The latest information is furnished by the French Consul at Hongkong in a recent report to his Government. He states that the Germans have abandoned the idea of relying upon the trade of Chinese wholesale houses; their principal efforts are now directed to retailers. He says German commercial travellers land, study the language, and with a slight knowledge they persuade some native merchant to give them a trial order. As soon as the goods arrive, they visit their client, and if he makes any complaint they assure him that the fault or error can be readily corrected or avoided in the next order; if necessary, they finally make a considerable reduction in the amount of the bill. When the day of payment arrives another visit is made. This time the purchaser is told he need not press himself to settle the whole account; a partial payment will suffice if he is willing to give a new order. If the client consents he is trapped. Although the merchandise may be inferior to French or English makes, it offers to the dealer the great advantage of cheaper prices and greater profits.

CHINESE OPIUM.

The foreign import of opium into Amoy in 1897 is valued at 329,566 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, against 318,153 $\frac{1}{2}$ % in 1896. Native opium imported amounted to 40,238 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, against 43,938 $\frac{1}{2}$ % in 1896. Almost all the opium imported into Amoy is re-exported to Formosa. In Amoy the extended growth of the poppy is diminishing the demand for opium grown elsewhere. During 1897 native opium to the value of \$1,288,500 was produced at different places in the Amoy district, but principally at Tang Wa. The production, however, is less than that of 1896, on account of the bubonic plague; the price also is somewhat lower than that of the preceding year, the ruling quotation being \$450 per picul. Yunnan opium maintained its former value, realising \$500 per picul. It is said that Su-chuan opium is now sent from Amoy to Tang Wa and mixed with Tang Wa opium, the mixed drug being subsequently sold at \$700 per picul. The Chinese buy this mixture because it possesses a better taste and touch than the pure Su-chuan and Tang Wa, and also on account of its similarity in colour to Persian opium. The quantity of paper-tied Persian drug imported increased by 200 chests in 1897, which increase was largely due to the smuggling into Formosa carried on by the Chinese. The same increase is observable in the imports of Bengal opium. The use of Indian opium in Chefoo is, according to a recent consular report, decreasing at the rate of 50 cwt. per annum. This is not due to any abstention, but to the rapidly-growing popularity of "pien t'u," or Manchurian opium, which is for the most part smuggled into the country chiefly by coolies returning from Vladivostok, Newchwang, and Port Arthur.

BERMUDA ARROWROOT.

The method of cultivating arrowroot in the Island of Bermuda is very similar to that practised in the culture of the common potato. The ground is well manured and ploughed deep, harrowed, and the roots set in drills about 3 feet apart. When mature the roots are collected, washed, and the outer skin completely removed, care being taken that complete removal of the cuticle is accomplished, as it contains a resinous matter which imparts colour and a disagreeable flavour to the starch, which no subsequent treatment can remove. The roots are again washed, and then crushed into a pulpy mass between powerful rollers. The pulp is thrown into perforated cylinders, where it is shaken by revolving wooden paddles, while a stream of water washes the fecula from the fibres and parenchyma of the pulp, and discharges it in the form of milk, which is passed through fine muslin strainers into large reservoirs, where it is allowed to settle and the supernatant water drawn off. After repeated washings it is finally allowed to settle for some time, when the surface is skimmed with German-silver palette-knives, for the purpose of removing any discoloured particles floating on the top. The substance is then spread

in flat copper pans, and covered with white ganze to exclude dust and insects. The pans are placed on rollers and run under glass-covered sheds when there is any danger of rains or dew. When thoroughly dry it is packed with German-silver shovels into new barrels lined with paper which is gummed with arrowroot-paste.

CALIFORNIA.

A long report from Mr. Acting Consul-General Moore, of San Francisco, on the trade, &c., of California during 1897 has been published by the Foreign Office. The direct trade between Great Britain and California is about a fifth of the whole external trade of the State, and we buy almost a half of the goods California has to sell. Thus, in 1897, the total exports (apart from spices) were 8,147,241 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, and of this Great Britain had 3,483,926 $\frac{1}{2}$ %. Germany bought only 4,073 $\frac{1}{2}$ % worth. On the other hand, imports from Great Britain are merely nominal compared with the exports—viz., 484,789 $\frac{1}{2}$ %. Ten years ago 1,169,826 $\frac{1}{2}$ % worth of British imports figured in the returns, and they have been decreasing since. Probably British goods are purchased in the Eastern States, but the real cause of the decline is the growth in American manufactures. German exports are on the decline also, but German firms work hard by direct representatives to keep up their business in the State, with the result that 131,885 $\frac{1}{2}$ % worth of German goods were imported last year. Mr. Moore seems to have no doubt that British merchants are allowing trade to slip through their hands because they do business through agents only. The kind of business to be done is principally in soft goods. As to exports, the only items of special interest to the drug-trade are quicksilver, of which 5,464 bottles (value 42,073 $\frac{1}{2}$ %) were exported, as compared with 9,494 bottles in 1896, and honey, the crop of which in 1897 was estimated at 3,720 tons. The report contains much information in regard to fruit-culture, which is worth 4,257,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ % a year to the State, but does not pay, says Mr. Moore, in effect. The State produces 65,000,000 lbs. of raisins annually. There is no mention of olives in the report, except incidentally, when the appearance of plant-tuberculosis ("olive knot" due to *bacillus oleæ*) in an olive-orchard at Merced is recorded.

SPONGES.

WEST INDIAN.—The Turks and Caicos Islands are a part of the British Empire to which our thoughts are seldom turned. They are in the Bahamas, but this year celebrate the jubilee of their political independence, and this independence brings us Colonial Office report for 1897, No. 230. The only item in it which Sir Augustus W. L. Hemming has written to interest us is about sponges. This is it:—

The value of the sponge-export from the Caicos Bank for the year mounted up to between 4,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ % and 5,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, or nearly five times the sum of the previous year's taking. Nearly the whole of this is taken by Bahamas sponging-craft and carried to Nassau for sale, the business being one that the Caiconian fishermen are too idle to work at with any steadiness, and the local merchant, moreover, for some not very clear reason, is shy of meddling with.

We note that in 1895 the sponge-exports were valued at 552 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, in 1896 at 957 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, and in 1897 at 4,484 $\frac{1}{2}$ %. Salt is the commodity which these islands produce most of, the exports having increased from 1,785,484 bushels per year (1889-95) to 2,236,008 bushels in 1897. There was a stock of a million bushels in the island on December 31, 1897.

TRIPOLI.—These sponges are inferior to those found in the Archipelago and other parts of the Levant, and are of a reddish-brown colour. The best quality—that gathered from rocks—is worth from 20f. to 25f. per oke of 2-82 lbs.; the second quality, gathered where seaweed abounds, from 16f. to 20f. per oke; and the third quality, occasionally brought up by the trawlers, from 12f. to 15f. per oke. The sponges are bleached and prepared for market by first soaking in the sea and then in a tub of water containing a solution of oxalic acid. After being dried they are worked up in dry sand, then shaken, and packed in boxes ready for shipment. The presence of sand in the sponges is said to be necessary for the requirements of consumers in certain European countries, who consider it an infallible test of the genuineness of the article.

"PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS."—"Every recipe is of real practical use."—J. M. H. (146/98.)

"Pharmaceutical Formulas."

The New "C. and D." Book of Recipes.

Price, 7s. 6d.; by post, 8s.

MAY be obtained direct from 42 Cannon Street, E.C., or from any of the following firms at the net price, 7s. 6d.:—

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Evans, Gadd & Co., Bristol
Evans, Lescher & Webb, London
Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool
Fletcher, Fletcher & Co., London
Ford, Shapland & Co., London
Fraser & Green, Glasgow
Glasgow Apothecaries' Co., Glasgow
Goodall, Backhouse & Co., Leeds
Hatricks, W. & R., & Co., Glasgow
Hirst, Brooke & Hirst (Lim.), Leeds
Ismay, John, & Sons, Newcastle
Kem, W., & Son, Horncastle
Lennon, B. G., & Co. (Lim.), London
Lewis, H. K., Gower Street, W.C.

Lofthouse & Saltmer, Hull
Lynch & Co. (Lim.), London
Maw, S., 'Son & Thompson, London
May, Roberts & Co., London
Newbery, F., & Sons, London
Oldfield, Pattinson & Co., Manchester
Paterson, W., & Sons, Aberdeen
Piukertou, Gibson & Co., Edinburgh
Potter & Clarke, London
Raines, Clark & Co., Edinburgh
Raines & Co., York
Sanger, J., & Sons, London
Smith, T. & H., & Co., Edinburgh
Stevenson, H. E., & Co., London
Sutton & Co., Chiswell Street, E.C.
Thompson, John (Lim.), Liverpool
Wilkinson & Simpson (Lim.), Newcastle
Wilson & Co., Bradford
Woolley, J., Sons & Co. (Lim.), Manchester
Wright, Layman & Umney, London
Wyleys (Lim.), Coventry

This work has many excellencies which will commend it as a working book for the pharmacist and an incentive to the extension of the manufacture of "own preparations." . . . Just how many formulas there are in the book would require a counting, as they are not numbered, but there is a liberal lot under each division, and there has been an evident purpose to make careful selections to show all types with sufficient variety to meet differences in tastes. The annotations, occupying possibly one-half the space of the book, are both informing and entertaining, the relative merits of the several formulas being briefly presented, as well as quite a little information of a general character upon the different classes of preparations. One commendable feature, which, so far as we know, is a new idea in the formulary, is the presentation of hints in regard to packing and labels, samples of the latter being shown in a number of instances, which cannot fail to be useful guides to the druggist in pushing the business end of his manufacturing department.—*Pharmaceutical Era* (N.Y.), June 30.

This is essentially a book which is calculated to save reference to a score of books before probably the desired information is found. The recipes and formulas are necessarily up to date since the materials are mostly collated from that brisk organ of the trade THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. The universality of information afforded in the book will be gathered from the following outline of the sections. The first section relates to toilet preparations and specialties, the next to preparations for the hair, the next to dental preparations, while the succeeding sections are devoted to perfumes, beverages, household and domestic requisites, writing-materials, varnishes, polishes, and stains, lozenges, miscellaneous preparations, and lastly galenical and medicinal preparations. A good index enables the reader at once to ascertain the formula which he requires. The directions enjoined are eminently practical and evidently based upon experience. The chapter on Galenical and Medicinal Preparations may be referred to as an example. The book supplies a distinct want, and is certain to give satisfaction to those by whom such a work is in constant requisition.—*The Lancet*, July 16.

CAMPHOR to the value of 1,318,291 yen was exported by Japan in 1897. The value of the exports in 1896 was 1,119,190 yen.

"ANTIMORPHIN" is the name of a speciality recently introduced in Germany, and which Dr. Hefelmann says is only a solution of disodium phosphate.

Trade Report.

Notice to Retail Buyers.

It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk, and, for crude drugs, without charges. For fuller particulars see the article "Lowest Trade Terms" in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 19, 1898, p. 473. C.i.f. quotations are for London unless when otherwise stated.

Buyers of essential oils are particularly requested to note that low quotations, especially for Sicilian essences, are rarely, if ever, accompanied by guarantee of genuineness.

A VERY dull market this week, and likely to remain so during the holiday season. The cinchona-sales on Tuesday were small, but prices were maintained, and this fact, with prospective purchases of quinine for the American fall trade, has given firmness to the alkaloid. Opium-alkaloids are dearer by 1d. per oz. The position of opium is discussed editorially. The following are the principal movements up to noon on Thursday:—

Higher	Firmer	Lower	Easier
Chiretta	Ambergris	Isinglass	Arsenic
Cream of tartar	Cinchona	Pheueacetin	Balsam of Peru
Grains of	Codeine	(special brands)	Castor oil
Paradise	Copper sulphate	Shellac	Pheuzouze
Morphine	Henbane		
Oil, star-aise	Oil, cassia		
Rhatany	Opium		
Saffron	Potas. cyan.		
	Wax, Japan		

Further fluctuations in drug-values are noted in the Drug auctions section. Cablegrams are printed on p. 140.

Acetanilide in Vanillin.

The comparatively wide range between the melting-points of acetanilide (114° C.) and vanillin (81° C.) suggests that the presence of acetanilide in vanillin may easily be detected by observing the melting-point of the sample. Mr. F. Dietz, however, points out (*Phar. Cent.*, page 485) that the melting-points of mixtures are quite abnormal. Thus, vanillin and acetanilide, equal parts, began to melt at 62.5° C., and completely melted at 87-88°, V.3, A.2, 62.5° and 86°; V.7, A.3, 62° and 75°; V.4, A.1, 62.5° and 73.5°, and so on. It is therefore difficult to judge by the melting-point the amount of acetanilide present.

American Peppermint-crop.

In regard to the failure of the peppermint-crop in the United States this season, the C. H. Perkins Company, Newark, N.Y., write to us on July 12 as follows:—

The coming crop of peppermint in Wayne County, New York, bids fair to be the smallest in acreage ever known. In thirty years the discouragements to the growers of oil of peppermint has never been as great as they are this year. The same conditions exist in the region where peppermint is grown in the State of Michigan, although not to as large an extent as in Wayne County, New York. Peppermint is obtained in the United States during the first year, which is the year of planting, but after having cut the crop one year, the second year's crop is also harvested without any particular extra labour, only the cuttings. The plantings of first crop this year were so light that it will reduce the acreage largely. Of course all of last year's planting will be cut this year, although somewhat deteriorated in amount by the drought that has prevailed for the last few weeks. We could hardly make an estimate of what the deficiency will be, but it must be a large one, and some of our information says that it will be at least one-half less than last year, and the output of peppermint oil will be one-third less. We have taken considerable pains to ascertain what is the status of peppermint plantations, and this is the best opinion that we can give at this writing.

Liverpool Drug-market.*Liverpool, July 20.*

CASTOR OIL.—Weaker. Although 3½d. is still asked for good seconds Calcutta, that price would be shaded slightly. First-pressure French is selling somewhat freely at 3d. per lb., and second-pressure is moving off slowly at 2½d. to 3d. Madras has declined to 3d., at which there is still no demand. A fresh feature of the castor-oil market this week is the appearance of 50 cases of Brazilian castor oil from Pernambuco, and the parcel will be offered at auction on Friday next.

BEESEWAX.—The movement in this has continued, and 49 packages of Chilean were sold at from 6½. 17s. 6d. to 7l. 10s. per cwt. A small parcel of Gambian wax fetched the excellent figure of 67. 15s. per cwt.

KOLA-NUTS meet with a steady demand, and sell as they arrive in the quay. Thirty bags of good dry have sold at 1½d. per lb.

HONEY.—There is no special change in Chilean to report. Sales are reported of 30 barrels X. and L., at 27s. 6d. and 24s. 6d. per cwt. respectively; while a bid of 20s. for a large line of Pile 3 was refused, the holders being firm at 21s. per cwt. Californian continues to be very well held by importers, and the finer grades are inquired for.

GUM ARABIC.—Rather neglected. There have been some fresh arrivals of Soudan sorts, and, although the quality is hard it is very attractive-looking; but values of these and of medium grades are unchanged.

GRAINS OF PARADISE.—The high price of 45s. per cwt. has been realised for 10 bags in store, and the owners of the balance are now talking of 50s. per cwt.

COPPER SULPHATE.—Very firm indeed at 16l. 10s., and makers show signs of putting the price up even higher.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—Three barrels fresh arrival sold on private terms.

CANARY-SEED continues featureless, and slow business is being done at 25s. 6d. per qr. for bright Turkish.

ARSENIC, POWDERED WHITE.—Easier, and the holders would now shade their price of 16l.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—The market has been entirely cleared of all the parcels of Newfoundland offering, but the price paid was not allowed to transpire.

Hamburg Drug-market.*Hamburg, July 19.*

Business on our drug-market has not improved, nor have prices changed much since last week.

AGAR-AGAR.—Scarce and firm at 295m. per 100 kilos.

ALOE.—Cape, 55m.; Curaçao at 39m. to 40m. per 100 kilos.

ANISE.—*Russian* quiet. There are offers from Russia for prompt shipment at 33m. per 100 kilos. *Star*: Spot firm at 230m. per 100 kilos. Shipment from China is offered at 190m. to 195m. per 100 kilos.

CUMIN-SEED.—Firm. Mogadore is 40m.; Maltese, 42m. per 100 kilos. paid, and 48m. to 50m. asked.

CASSIA LIGNEA.—Firm. New standard demands 86m. per 100 kilos.

CEVADILLA-SEED without demand, nominally 76m. per 100 kilos.

CARAWAY-SEED.—Steady on the spot at 42m. per 100 kilos.

GENTIAN-ROOT 40m. per 100 kilos.

MENTHOL is unchanged at 14½m. per kilo.

OILS (FIXED).—Cod-liver shows very little business, 1898 non-congealing oil is quoted 80m. to 85m. per barrel. Castor neglected and slow of sale: spot, first pressing, 7 barrels, 57m.; forward, 54m. per 100 kilos.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—Russian anise, 13m. to 13½m. per kilo. Clove firm, 6m. to 7m. per kilo. Caraway-seed firm, at 9½m. per kilo.

OPIMUM continues firm, at 22½m. per kilo.

QUILLAYA-BARK.—Unaltered. Uncut bark 38m., cut bark 46m. to 47m. per 100 kilos.

SPIRIT OF TURPENTINE.—Quiet. The ship *Sieben* has arrived after a very quick passage. Spot is now quoted 42m. to 42½m. per 100 kilos.

WAX (JAPAN).—Spot 66m. per 100 kilos., forward 63m.

American Markets.*New York, July 5.*

All prices, unless otherwise stated, are New York spot quotations.

Business continues dull, owing largely to the "Fourth" and to the operations of the new Revenue law. Prices have, on the whole, been well maintained, and there are no changes to report.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—The San Francisco reports, combined with the high freight-rates, do not warrant the low quotations of last month. Outside of New York there is practically no old bark,

and the new crop does not seem to be plentiful. The spot market is extremely firm, and 4½c. is the lowest quotation at present for new bark, and there is every prospect of much higher rates. It is probable that all Western drugs will be much higher this year for several reasons. The high price of corn and wheat has resulted in higher wages, and this, accompanied by scarcity of labour due to the exodus in the spring to the Klondike, and later to the war, will prove sufficient to considerably limit production, and, consequently, advance prices. There is already a noticeable hardening in the staple products of the West.

BALSAMS.—The only noticeable feature is a hardening in Peru, some dealers having advanced quotations to \$2.15.

OPUM is featureless, and the price remains at \$3.55 to \$3.60.

QUININE is firm at 20c. for foreign.

SENEGA is dull, but firmly held at 23-24c. New crop from the West is offered at 21c., f.o.b. New York.

DAMIANA.—New crop is said to be all in, and while 11c. will still buy prime green leaf, the price will probably advance rapidly in the near future.

WHITE HELLEBORE is dull, and 10c. will buy.

HYDRASTIS (Golden Seal) is neglected, and quotations remain at 40c.

New York, July 12.

The operations of the new Revenue law still depress this market.

OPUM continues very firm, and, while quotations nominally remained unchanged at \$3.55 to \$3.60, dealers will not sell at these figures in large lots, and a few holders are quoting \$3.65.

CINCHONIDINE is lower in consequence of better offerings, and 13c. will buy in quantity.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—The only available supply is bark from two to five years' old, which is firmly held at 4½c. to 6c., according to age. The former figure is still the lowest quotation for new bark, and as the crop is expected to be small, for the reasons stated in my last letter, it is probable that this figure will be exceeded during the season.

DAMIANA-LEAVES.—As anticipated on July 5, prices are rapidly advancing, and 13c. is now generally asked for prime green leaves, with every prospect of higher figures later.

BUCHU-LEAVES of fine green quality are scarce, and very firm at 18c. to 20c. Short yellow leaves are plentiful, and in good demand at 11c. to 12c.

QUILLAYA-BARK is in good supply, at 6c. for whole and 7c. for crushed.

JALAP.—New Vera Cruz root is steady, at 9½c. to 11c. Some of this root is soft and spongy. For heavy old resinous root 12c. is asked.

SERPENTARIA is lower, and 20c. to 22c. will buy good quality rhizome.

COCA-LEAVES are easier, and 11c. will buy light green Truxillo.

PEPPERMINT OIL is quiet, but steady. The usual reports as to the smallness of the new crop are afloat, but it seems certain that this year the yield will be smaller, as some of the growers will not plant while present prices prevail. It is not anticipated that this will have any serious effect on prices for new crop.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: July 20.

ACID, CITRIC.—Firm at 1s. 2d. per lb., but difficult to get. Letter advices from Messina regarding the advance in lemon-juce last month confirm the report that this was due to exceptional demand from the United States, for which destination the high figure of 16l. 5s., f.o.b., was paid in one instance. Holders are firm, in view of the reduced stocks and a smaller lemon-crop than last year. The current quotation in Messina for bergamot-juice is 12l. 12s. 6d., f.o.b. The stock there is reported at 20 pipes, and crop-reports are unfavourable. The shipments of lemon-juice and bergamot-juice from Messina in June were 446 pipes. The last ten tons of calcium citrate existing in Messina are reported to have been sold at 17l. per ton, f.o.b. terms; the nominal quotation for future delivery is 14l. 10s., f.o.b.

AGAR-AGAR has been in good demand lately, and 1s. 5d. per lb. been paid for fine stuff.

ALCOHOL.—Firm, owing to the statistical position, but unchanged in price.

BELLADONNA-ROOT.—The new foreign root is now arriving, but only in very small parcels. The lowest quotation we hear of is 45s. per cwt. on the spot, and little is to be had at that. *Leaves* of foreign growth are offered at 42s., c.i.f.

CAMPOR, CRUDE.—Chinese is quoted at 78s. per cwt., c.i.f., and Japanese at 86s. to 87s., c.i.f., for August-September shipment. There is a fair market at present.

CHIRETTA.—Scarce. 5*l.* per lb. is wanted for a fair drug for which 3½*d.* was recently paid.

CINCHONA.—At the auctions held here on Tuesday the eight catalogues comprised 1,171 packages only (against 2,724 in June), which were made up as follows:—

	Packages.	Packages.
Ceylon cinchona ...	366 of which	326 were sold.
Java cinchona ...	350	350
East Indian cinchona	246	91
African cinchona ...	200	200
	1,162	967

There was good competition throughout, and the bulk was disposed of at slightly dearer rates, the average unit obtained being fully ¾*d.* per lb. The following figures represent the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers:—

	Lbs.
Agents for the American and Italian works ...	55,740
Messrs. Howards & Sons ...	37,489
Agents for the Brunswick factory ...	37,224
Agents for the Frankfurt and Stuttgart factories	29,568
Agents for the Mannheim and Amsterdam factory ...	23,380
Agents for the Paris factory ...	3,675
Agents for the Imperial Quinine Company ...	—
Agents for the Auerbach factory ...	—
Druggists, and various buyers ...	17,080
Total quantity sold ...	204,156
Bought in or withdrawn ...	33,045
Total quantity of bark offered ...	237,201

The following prices were obtained:—*African*: Ordinary to fair quill, 2½*d.* to 3½*d.* per lb.; red broken quill, 3½*d.* (one lot 4*d.*) *Java*: Good Ledgeriana stem chips, 4½*d.* to 5½*d.* *Ceylon*: Suceirubra, natural stem chips and shavings, 2½*d.* to 3*d.*; renewed ditto, 2½*d.* to 2½*d.* *East Indian*: Red stem chips, 2½*d.* to 4½*d.*; ordinary ditto, renewed, 2½*d.* to 4½*d.*; broken quill and chips, 3*d.*; stem and chips, 3½*d.* to 3½*d.*; chips and shavings, 4½*d.* Ledgeriana chips, renewed, 3½*d.*; stem and chips, 2½*d.*

At last week's Amsterdam auctions 6,650 packages were offered, containing a total of 532,853 kilos. of bark (1,282,276 lbs.), equal to 27,647 kilos. of quinine sulphate (967,645 ozs.). Of this quantity 109,891 kilos. was druggists' bark, containing the equivalent of 2,641 kilos. (92,435 oz.) of quinine sulphate; the manufacturing bark consisted of 472,962 kilos, containing 25,006 kilos. (875,210 ozs.) quinine sulphate. The average quinine-sulphate value of the bark was 5.23 per cent. The bark sold contained the equivalent of 25,114 kilos. (878,990 ozs.) quinine sulphate, and that bought in 2,533 kilos., or nine-tenths as much as the last sales, and the unit was 2½ per cent. higher.

The unit averaged 420c. per half-kilo., against 430c. at the corresponding period of 1897, 285c. in 1896, 272c. in 1895, and 450c. in 1894.

CODEIA.—Manufacturers are booking orders at 11s. 6*d.* per oz.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—Unchanged, but firm. The exports of argol from Brindisi during 1897 were 185 tons (6,642*l.*), against 299 tons (23,368*l.*) in 1896.

GLYCERIN is firm at 52s. to 53s. for English, s.g. 1.260. German is quoted at 52s. 6*d.* to 60s. per cwt., according to brand.

HENBANE.—Foreign leaves are scarce, at 45s. per cwt. "c.i.f." English, unchanged and scarce.

ISINGLASS.—At the auctions a quiet tone prevailed, and about half the offerings found buyers at lower prices. Brazil lump was 2*d.* lower; Bombay, dull and unchanged; Penang-leaf, steady, and purse full up; all the Saigon offered was bought in.

LIQUORICE-ROOT.—Decorticated *Persian* is offered at 20s. per cwt. nominally on the spot.

MORPHIA.—A provisional advance of 1*d.* per oz. was notified on Monday, thus making hydrochloride in powder 4s. 10*d.* to 5s. 2*d.* per oz., according to quantity, and cubes and crystals 5s. to 5s. 4*d.* per oz. There were some heavy

purchases early in the week at the lower figures, and even at 4s 9*d.*, but the market closes exceedingly firm.

OIL, BERGAMOT.—Business has been done this week in oil of a well-known brand at 8s. 6*d.* per lb., c.i.f. terms.

OIL, CASSIA.—Our reports of the absence of stock on the other side is confirmed. Hong-Kong has refused 4s. 6*d.* per lb. for 70 to 75 per cent., and for the same quality, on the spot, 5s. 3*d.* per lb. is wanted; 75 to 80 per cent. is 5s 9*d.* spot; 80 to 85 per cent., 6s. spot. The market closes very firm.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—From Bergen our correspondent writes, on July 16, that the market is unaltered, and that the "dead season" is now on. Business, it is hoped, will be brisker in August, as there is more disposition to buy on the part of the United States. The total exports from Bergen up to date have been 4,604 barrels, against 4,432 barrels at the corresponding period of last year. 81s., f.o.b., will still buy best Lofoten medicinal oil. Nothing doing in London.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—Quotations are unchanged, and as yet there has been no price response to the alarms from Wayne County.

OIL, STAR-ANISE.—A moderate business has been done this week at higher rates, including transactions on the spot at 7s. to 7s. 1½*d.* per lb., July-August steamer at 6s. 9*d.* to 6s. 10*d.*, and August-September at 6s. 9*d.* to 6s. 10½*d.* From China the c.i.f. quotation comes dearer—viz. 7s. 1½*d.* for July-August shipment; and to-day 7s. 3*d.* per lb. is wanted here for oil on the spot.

OPIMUM.—The London market maintains its firm position, and the tendency generally is upwards. Sales of *Persian* have been made for arrival at full values, and on the spot business has been done at 11s. 6*d.* to 12s.. Good to fine *Soft shipping* is quoted at 11s. 3*d.* to 13s. per lb., according to quality, and business is also reported in good *Druggists'* at 11s. on the spot; second quality is 10s. 3*d.* to 11s. per lb. To-day the market closes in an excited state, the rush referred to in our editorial having set in, chiefly in consequence of Smyrna cable-advice that current talequale has sold there for 12s. to-day, higher prices are now asked here.

Smyrna, July 16.—The sales this week amount to very nearly 300 cases, over 285 of which are old crop for America, and the balance new slightly selected material for England and for account of interior speculators. Buyers are still on the market for further supplies, and it is generally believed that next week will see prices 6*d.* higher. Our holders have no further orders to sell from their interior buyers, except at higher figures. Later on, during August and September, when buyers for the Dutch Government come forward, we expect our market will reach the high figures of 12s. 6*d.* to 13s., according to quality. The harvesting of the crop on the high plateaus is not at all satisfactory.

Another correspondent, writing on the same date, adds the following particulars:—The business done during the past week amounted to 310 cases in all, and amongst them were 75 cases old current Kurraehi and Yerli at an equivalent of 10s. 4*d.* to 10s. 8*d.*, 50 cases of the same rearing from 10s. 9*d.* to 10s. 11*d.*, 11 cases new current and Yerli selling from 9s. 11*d.* to 10s. 3*d.*, c.i.f. European ports. The market closes very firm. Arrivals 190 cases, against 290 in 1897. American houses principally figure as purchasers. There has also been some movement in the Constantinople market, and up to July 13 there have been sold there 140 cases old current Kurraehi and Yerli, talequale, and 70 cases new current and Yerli, talequale, all for America at higher prices than ours; market firm with buyers and sellers very obstinate.

OXALIC ACID.—Dearer, the continental manufacturers having slightly advanced and rearranged the prices, which are now for 2-ton lots, 3*d.* per lb., and for smaller quantities 3½*d.* per lb., landed on the quay at the principal ports of Great Britain—viz., Goole, Hull, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Glasgow, and Leith. Export prices are unchanged.

PHENACETIN.—The manufacturers of *Bayer's* brand have, after all, taken second thoughts, and announced on Monday a reduction to 5s. 6*d.* per lb. At the beginning of last week they made a similar announcement, but almost immediately they withdrew the lower quotation, and it was during the period of hesitancy that the agent informed us that no decision had been arrived at. In consequence of *Bayer's*

reduction, *Ricdel's* brand has also been lowered from 8s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb. to 5s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Other brands are from 3s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, according to quality.

PHENAZONE.—There has been some shifting in values among individual agents, but we hear of no business having been done at less than 11s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, but a comparative absence of business has given a fictitious firmness to quotations. It is now stated that the low prices now ruling are not such as to encourage fresh competition with the expiry of the French and German patents to-morrow.

QUININE.—The market remains very quiet with little business doing at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per oz. for good German brands in first and second hands. A firmer tendency is now apparent especially owing to prospective purchases by America for the fall trade. [See cablegram.]

SAFFRON.—Good business has been done this week in the best Valencia at 36s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb. on the spot. Higher rates are inevitable owing to the low stocks in Spain, where indeed prices have been much higher than in London, but the low rate of exchange has given us the advantage.

SALOL, which is at present quoted 3s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb. by the manufacturers, has not yet advanced in sympathy with salicylic acid, but is expected to on an early day.

SEEDS continue slow of sale. New crop Morocco *Pennu-greek* has sold at 8s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt. Advices from Malta state that the price of new-crop *Cumin* has again risen; some new Mogador has arrived here, for which 23s. is asked. Very little demand for *Canary*. *Caraways* dull, but unchanged in price. *Anise* quiet.

SHELLAC.—At auction on Tuesday the moderate supply of 732 cases was offered, of which 500 sold, chiefly without reserve, at about 2s. per cwt. decline for fair TN orange, which is now quoted at 63s. The following prices were paid:—*Second orange*, ordinary red blocky, 58s.; free, 59s. to 60s.; medium reddish blocky, 60s. to 61s.; cakey, 62s.; good free palm, 62s. to 64s. *Garact*, flint block, 55s. *Pure Button*, 88s. to 95s.; dark refuse, 16s. to 20s.

SILVER NITRATE is 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz.

SPICES.—The market has been fairly active, and prices of *White pepper*, *Pimento*, and *Zanzibar cloves* show an advance, while *Black pepper* has fluctuated slightly, closing firmer. *Cochin Ginger* at auction on Wednesday was flat and easier for rough, fair washed selling at 19s. to 19s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt.; scrag sold at 11s.; small rough at 14s.; dull to good tips at 19s. to 25s.; small native cut at 29s.; and bold at 77s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 80s. per cwt. *Jamaica* sold steadily for good, but rather lower for inferior; common at 65s. to 70s.; ordinary to middling, 71s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 78s.; and good at 82s. to 84s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt. No *Zanzibar Cloves* offered, but more inquiry privately, with business at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4d. per lb. for fair on the spot; and October-December delivery at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. *Japan Chillies* bought in at 32s. per cwt. for badly-picked, and at 43s. for fine. *Mace* firm. *Nutmegs* quiet. *Pimento* dearer; at auction ordinary dusty sold at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and good clean at 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., with sales privately at 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for fair. *White Pepper* dearer; the parcels offered at auction were bought in; but business has been done in Penang, on the spot, at 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 8d. per lb. for distant shipment; Singapore at 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. on the spot, and at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to arrive. *Black* also dearer on the week; Singapore at 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for shipment. *Tellicherry* has sold privately at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. *Alleppy* bought in at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

Cablegrams.

HAMBURG, July 21, 1220 P.M.:—Little doing in this market. Camphor especially is quiet at 228m. per 100 kilos. of refined; cassia is firm, and higher rates are asked by holders; honey is also improving.

* * * *

NEW YORK, July 21, 233 P.M.:—A marked change has come over the spirit of this market, and to-day it closes with improvements in several more important branches. Opium is steadily advancing, and in good request at \$375 to \$385 per lb. Quinine is also very strong, in consequence of a demand for war-supplies, and the 20c. price cannot long be

maintained. New Californian honey is scarce, and comes forward slowly. Quillaia has declined to 5s. per lb. for whole, and is dull. Copaiba balsam is easier, and Maranham can be bought at 41c. per lb. Senega irregular at 23s. per lb.

Drug-auctions in London.

TO-DAY'S sales were unusually small, few brokers covering more than half the usual counter-space with samples. New guaiacum of finer quality was a feature of the sale, and new rhubarb and balsam of Peru were also offered. Senna was in much better supply. Calumba, honey, jalap, nux vomica, and beeswax were in much larger volume than at the last sales, but cardamoms had dropped from 278 to 120 packages. The following shows the public transactions:—

Offered Sold		Offered Sold	
Aconite-root.....	22 ... 0	Ipecacuanha (Rio) ..	32 ... 0
Aloes (Cape).....	4 ... 0	Jalap	57 ... 0
Curaçao.....	36 ... 16	Kamala	10 ... 0
Socotrine	3 ... 0	Kino	11 ... 0
Zanzibar	9 ... 5	Kola-nuts	35 ... 14
Ambergris.....	3 ... 2	Lime-juice	3 ... 0
Aniseed	10 ... 0	Liquorice-root	66 ... 0
Annatto-seed	33 ... 1	Mastic	5 ... 0
Asafetida	1 ... 1	Musk	6 ... 4
Balsam (Pern).....	7 ... 0	Myrrh	17 ... 0
Tolu	18 ... 0	Nutmeg-paste	2 ... 0
Benzoin	196 ... 5	Nux vomica	139 ... 25
Bird-lime	2 ... 0	Oil, bergamot	4 ... 0
Buchu	18 ... 8	camphor	200 ... 0
Cactus-flowers	4 ... 0	castor.....	45 ... 0
Calumba	945 ... 702	cedarwood	5 ... 0
Camphor (refined) ..	5 ... 0	cinnamon	23 ... 0
Cardamoms	120 ... 10	clove	4 ... 0
Cascarilla	13 ... 8	cottonseed	1 ... 1
Chamomiles	15 ... 0	eucalyptus	69 ... 0
Cinchona	9 ... 0	lemon.....	1 ... 0
Coca-leaves	4 ... 0	lemongrass	24 ... 0
Cocculus indicus ..	100 ... 0	lime	2 ... 0
Colocyath	20 ... 0	nutmeg	2 ... 0
Gamboge	83 ... 83	orange	3 ... 0
Croton-seed	1 ... 0	peppermint	5 ... 0
Cubebs	73 ... 0	rose (Bombay) ..	7 ... 0
Cumin-seed	45 ... 17	Orange-pcel	50 ... 0
Cuscut	15 ... 0	Orris-root	38 ... 7
Cuttlefish bone ..	16 ... 0	Patchouli	7 ... 0
Dragon's-blood ..	4 ... 0	Puree.....	1 ... 0
Elemi	9 ... 0	Quince-seed	3 ... 0
Ergot of rye	14 ... 0	Rhatany	6 ... 0
Galangal	20 ... 20	Rhubarb	108 ... 27
Galbanum	15 ... 0	Rose-water	10 ... 10
Galls	58 ... 58	Sarsaparilla	70 ... 12
Gamboge	13 ... 13	Scammony	5 ... 0
Gentian	7 ... 0	Scammony-root ..	80 ... 0
Guaiacum	69 ... 50	Senna	257 ... 141
Gum aceroides.....	13 ... 0	Squills	12 ... 8
ammoniacum	2 ... 0	Tamarinds	200 ... 100
arabic	17 ... 2	Tonka-beans.....	2 ... 0
tragacanth	4 ... 0	Turmeric	63 ... 0
Honey	395 ... 167	Vanilla	90 ... 51
Ipecacuanha (Cart.)	11 ... 3	Wax (bees')	644 ... 74

The tone of the sales was lifeless, and the changes apparent were as under:—

Dearer.—Ambergris, buchu, cloves, pepper, pimento, sarsaparilla.

Cheaper.—Benzoin, calumba, coriander, honey.

Firmer.—Cartagena ipecacuanha, beeswax.

It was decided, owing to the August Bank-holiday, that the next auctions should be held on August 18.

ALOES.—For ordinary dull *Cape* 17s. per cwt. was refused. Some fine bright liver *Curaçao* sold at 34s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt., and ditto, part dark, at 28s. A lot of watery *Socotrine* in casks was again neglected, and before it next appears perhaps the holder will get rid of the water. A small business has been done privately this week in good *Socotrine* at 75s. per cwt. For good hard *Zanzibar* in skins 70s. per cwt. was refused, and softer sorts sold at 49s. to 59s. per cwt., according to the softness thereof.

AMBERGRIS.—The demand has slackened off somewhat during the past week and closes quiet. The highest price paid privately is 5*l.* 10*s.* per oz. for extra fine grey. There is none of the perfume in the Crutched Friars warehouse, and the parcels offered to-day were in the brokers' hands. One exceptionally fine piece was put up for sale, and 90*s.* refused, 5*l.* being wanted. Another lot of good grey sold at 85*s.*

ANNATTO.—The sales were confined to a sea-damaged lot, which brought 2½*d.* per lb., "without reserve."

BALSAM OF PERU.—At last some balsam of direct import has reached London, and it proves to be of good quality. It was offered in auction to-day, but no bid was made for it publicly, 9*s.* per lb. being the limit.

BALSAM TOLU.—Fair, but rather soft, balsam from Savanilla was bought in at 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb.

BENZON.—This sale was a sensible relief from those which have preceded it this year, the offerings approaching somewhat to the needs of buyers. Some old *Palembang*, dull in appearance and of poor flavour, sold at 35*s.* per cwt. *Sumatra* seconds, medium pale almonds of fair aroma, but badly false-packed, sold at 6*l.* per cwt., which is an easier price. The *Siam* was of very ordinary character, and was not wanted.

BUCHU.—One-fourth dearer. Good bright round green leaves sold at 5½*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; ditto, off colour and rather stalky, at 5*d.* per lb.

CALUMBA.—About 5*s.* per cwt. cheaper. The sales were confined to very ordinary mixed sorts, rough and part stemmy, which sold at 10*s.* 6*d.* to 13*s.* A fair small to medium slice, partly yellow, sold at 17*s.* 6*d.* to 18*s.* per cwt., and sea-damaged at 5*s.* per cwt. Bold and bright washed yellow root is limited at 35*s.*, and rough ditto at 25*s.*

CARDAMOMS.—The offers were small, and the demand almost *nil*, probably on account of the poorness of the selection. Good brown, mixed size, *Ceylon-Mysore*s sold at 2*s.* 3*d.* per lb.; and medium in coat and seed, 2*s.* 9*d.* was refused, 3*s.* 3*d.* being wanted. *Ceylon-Malabars* were unsaleable, but some shells have sold privately at 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

CASCARILLA.—Only thin strip bark and siftings were offered, the former selling at 36*s.* per cwt., and the latter at 25*s.*

CHAMOMILES.—No further news to hand regarding the new crop, except that the acreage planted is smaller than usual, and the plants do not look up to much. It is stated that the market for new crop will open dear, as the stocks of old are low. At auction, fair white double flowers of old crop Belgian were limited at 42*s.* 6*d.* to 45*s.* (since sold at 45*s.*), and brownish at 37*s.*, a bid of 36*s.* being refused for the latter parcel. We hear from Hungary that this year's crop will not be more than one-third of the average. The German crop also promises badly.

CORIANDER-SEED.—A parcel of mixed *Morocco* seed, infested by weevils, sold without reserve at 5*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.

CUBEBS.—Without demand. Only one parcel offered, and was bought in at 25*s.* per cwt.

CUMIN SEED.—Dull and wormy mixed seed, all more or less sea-damaged, sold without reserve at 6*s.* per cwt. Another lot of fair quality *Maltese* sold at 28*s.* per cwt.

CUTTLEFISH BONE.—Fair bone of medium colour sold at 4*d.* per lb., and mixed sizes, partly broken, at 2½*d.*

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—Siftings of fair colour, but woody, were limited at 8*l.* per cwt. No lump was offered.

ERGOT.—There has been more inquiry recently, and Russian is offered at 8½*d.* per lb., and some sold after the auction at the same price. Bold Spanish, slightly weevily, can be bought at less than 9*d.*

GALANGAL.—A parcel of good bright, but musty-looking, root sold without reserve at 23*s.* per cwt.

GALLS.—The sales were confined to damaged Persian, the best of which sold "without reserve" at 42*s.* 6*d.* to 52*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., and the worst lots down to 23*s.* per cwt.

GAMBOGE unchanged, and for broken and slightly blocky Saigon pipe of dull fracture 6*l.* per cwt. was paid. Privately 8*l.* 5*s.* has been paid for fair pipe with good fracture.

GUAIACUM.—New crop was offered to-day. It included some exceptionally fine block tears, the best of which was of an amber-brown colour and free from wood, but the lower grades were mixed with a kidney-shaped seed, and the lowest was exceedingly drossy, but with a brown colour predominating. Other parcels were of drossy green stuff. The following were the prices realised: Fine, pale brown glassy tear in block, 2*s.* per lb.; ditto, seconds, 1*s.* 7*d.*; good green resin, in block, 1*s.* 11*d.*; and dark green woody and drossy block, 2½*d.* to 4*d.* per lb.

HONEY.—Supplies large, and prices lower. For set *Australian* 18*s.* per cwt. is wanted, and 30*s.* to 35*s.* for *Californian* part set, fair flavour. White set *Chilian*, mixed colours, sold at 18*s.* to 21*s.*, and *Jamaica*, fair clear good flavour, 24*s.*; medium flavour and seconds, 18*s.* 6*d.* to 21*s.*; ditto, set white, 20*s.*, and dirty, unfiltered and low flavour, 16*s.* Some *West Indian* honey, in quart bottles, sold at 17*s.* per cwt.

IPPECACUANHA.—Unchanged. *Cartagena* was the only kind that sold at full values—viz., 5*s.* per lb. for "first-class damages" and 4*s.* 10*d.* for second ditto. 9*s.* to 9*s.* 1*d.* per lb. is wanted for good sound and fairly bold *Rio* root.

JALAP.—Present prices are so unremunerative that a lot of 40 bags new import was offered to-day "unworked"—i.e., all sizes and qualities together as imported. It was bought in at 5*d.* to 5½*d.* per lb., no bids being made. The exports through Vera Cruz from July 1, 1896, to June 30, 1897, amounted to 160 tons, valued at 5,100*l.*, divided as follows:—England, 2 tons (90*l.*); Germany, 74 tons (1,959*l.*); France, 10 tons (222*l.*); and United States, 74 tons (2,829*l.*).

KOLA-NUTS.—Fair split African sold, without reserve, at 2*d.* per lb.

MUSK.—Quiet and without change. Small to bold, thin skin with a few blue and few broken pods, fairly dry, sold at 47*s.*; and others, of which the contents were doubtful, sold at 26*s.* per oz. A tin of highly-ammoniacal grain-musk was limited at 32*s.* 6*d.* per oz.

NUX VOMICA.—In large supply. Of two parcels offered, one of 25 bags sold at 8*s.* per cwt. for good small to medium silver button. Fine pale were bought in at 10*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

OIL, CASTOR.—A quiet but steady market. Oil of British manufacture is quoted at 23*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for first pressing in barrels, and 3½*d.* in cases and tins; second pressing, 27*s.* 6*d.* in barrels, and 3½*d.* in cases and tins, f.o.b. or f.o.b. Hull. Belgian quiet and quoted, prompt, 23*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., f.o.b. Antwerp; July-December shipment, 23*l.* 5*s.* per ton in both cases for first pressure in barrels; medicinal, 30*s.* per cwt., f.o.b. Antwerp.

OIL, COTTONSEED.—A barrel containing about 40 gals. of a pale oil sold at 12*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

OIL, LEMONGRASS.—Weaker, and likely to be cheaper. No bidding in auction, and one lot drew suspicion as being of a petroleum origin.

ORANGE-PEEL.—A few bags have been sold privately this week at 5*d.* per lb. At auction nothing was sold, rather overheated *Tripoli* strip being bought in at 7*d.*, down to 5*d.* for thick peel.

ORRIS.—Privately the market is quiet and unchanged, in anticipation of the new crop near at hand. A fair quality of Florentine can be had at 36*s.* per cwt. c.i.f.; for good white selected 40*s.* was wanted in auction. A parcel of seven serons *Mogador*, of fair dry quality, offered without reserve and sold at 10*s.* 6*d.*, 15*s.* 6*d.*, and 20*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

QUINCE-SEED.—1*s.* 6*d.* per lb. wanted for fair.

RHATANY.—This root is scarce, and good Peruvian has advanced from 6½*d.* to 8*d.* per lb. The offering in auction was the mixture of Savanilla and Peruvian previously referred to; 5*d.* was bid for it and refused, 7*d.* being required.

RHUBARB.—Good business has been passing lately, the deliveries being greater than the arrivals, and the stocks are getting reduced. The new crop comes in slowly, and is confined to *Canton* of fair quality. In auction the business done was limited, private treaty getting to be more and more the rule; 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb. was paid for good bold round

Canton of fair fracture; and 1s. 2d. for small to medium ditto. For good bold flat fair fracture *Shensi* 1s. 1d. is wanted. Good druggists' trimming, compact, good fracture, is held at 3s. per lb. (2s. 9d. was refused); ditto pickings sold at 1s. 7d. per lb., and bold round with spongy surface at 9½d. per lb. Of *High-dried*, fair medium flat offered within the reserve, and sold at 8¾d. to 9¾d. per lb.

ROSE-WATER.—A parcel of 10 carboys, each 5 gals., of flower-distilled water sold at 2d. per lb.

SARSAPARILLA.—Unchanged. Genuine grey Jamaica sold at 1s. 10d. per lb.; red and yellow native ditto at 10d. (1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. is wanted for good red native). Lima-Jamaica sold at 1s. to 1s. 2d. per lb., and second-class damages at 11½d. per lb. It looks as if we are to have a bare market of sarsaparilla ere long. There is little Lima in London, and the stock of Jamaica is shrinking. Privately, 1s. 4d. is wanted for Lima, and 1s. 10d. for Jamaica.

SCAMMONY.—Privately, firsts have been in good demand, and have sold at 27s. to 30s., and best seconds at 23s. per lb. There is not much to be had. Supplies of root are increasing, but there is no business to report.

SENA.—The newly-imported Tinnevely was brought up to-day and sold readily at unchanged rates—viz., medium green leaf, at 2¼d. per lb.; small to medium, partly brown and spotty, 1¾d. to 2d.; and some dirty low leaf at 1d. to 1¼d. per lb. Pods sold at 1¼d. to 1½d. Alexandrian was not in request, buyers not being disposed to pay 6d. to 8d. for bold green leaf, and 4½d. for medium, and 2½d. for mixed stalky. For Alexandrian pods 4½d. to 5d. is wanted.

SQUILLS.—Dry dull slice was sold at 2½d. per lb., while bright was limited at 3d.

TAMARINDS.—Slightly easier, and selling fairly well at 9s. 6d. to 10s. for good new West Indian, the pale sorts fetching the extra 6d. Antiguas sold at 10s.

TONCA BEANS.—For bold frosted Angostura 5s. per lb. was refused; 6d. more is wanted.

TURMERIC.—Firm. At the drysaltary-auctions some 300 bags of Cochin finger were bought in at 22s. to 23s. per cwt. The business done privately this week has been small. For Bengal finger 20s. is asked. In auction a parcel of mixed finger was bought in at 17s.

VANILLAS.—In small supply. One lot fine frosted *Bourbon* sold at 25s. per lb., and the rest of this series at the following rates:—7½ to 8 inches, 22s. 6d. to 23s.; 7 to 7½ inches, 22s.; 7 inches, 21s.; foxy ditto, 18s.; 4½ to 5 inches, 15s.; foxy, 10s. 6d.; and brown foxy dry at 7s. 3d. *Seychelles*, fair chocolate, 6½ inches, sold at 15s. 6d., 6 inches at 15s., and various mixed sizes at 10s. 6d., mouldy beans fetching 8s.

WAX (BEES).—Steady, and prices are maintained. The offerings were confined to unbleached Calcutta, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mogador, Mozambique, and Zanzibar. Only the *Jamaica* sold, at 6d. 15s. to 6d. 17s. 6d. per cwt. for good hard, smooth grain, mixed colours, to fair yellow.

Arrivals.

The following is a list of the principal drugs which have arrived in the port of London and other large ports in England since July 15. The figures indicate the number of original packages (bales, casks, &c.):—

Ambergris	2	Oil, aniseed.....	70
Argol	15	Oil, castor	210
Borax	881	Oil, cod-liver	75
Cardamoms.....	33	Oil, eucalyptus	5
Cinchona	514	Oil, mustard	50
Cinnamon	100	Oil, olive	511
Coriander-seed	10	Oil, rosemary	25
Essences	400	Opium	170
Fennugreek.....	8	Orris-root	112
Ginger	2101	Pepper	142
Gum arabic.....	69	Pistachio-nuts	9
Gum Benjamin	28	Rhubarb	21
Gum copal	489	Senna	133
Gum dammar.....	49	Shellac.....	2570
Honey	539	Squills.....	15
Lemon-juice	58	Turmeric.....	10
Liquorice.....	4404	Vanilla.....	2
Oil, almond	3	Wax	339

Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill

Becomes Law. The Company-clause is Postponed.

IN the House of Lords on Thursday afternoon the final stage of this measure was reached. The Lord Chancellor had given notice of the following new clause:—

A company may carry on the business of a pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist if and so long only as the business is *bona fide* conducted by a manager or assistant being a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, but, subject as aforesaid, sections one and fifteen of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, shall apply in the case of a company in like manner as they apply in the case of an individual.

When the order was reached the Lord Chancellor stated to the House that he would, in deference to representations made to him, withdraw the clause. Accordingly the Bill passed, and now awaits her Majesty's sanction.

The Lord Chancellor's remarks were almost inaudible, but he said: Although I do not think this amendment of mine would hurt the Bill, still, the Bill, on the other hand, really and truly only affects the internal economy of the Society. I had received a number of complaints in respect to these companies, which are practically medical companies, but most of the complaints came from Ireland, and, therefore, would not touch the question, which is a very important and serious one. I know that after the Bill was introduced in the House of Commons an agreement was come to that it should be taken as an unopposed Bill; but I have received a very considerable body of correspondence on both sides with reference to this question, discussing whether or not such an amendment ought or ought not to be introduced into the existing law. Well, my Lords, I have considered it very carefully, and it appears to me that the amendment would be inoperative unless there was a very considerable amount of machinery introduced in the measure in the way of registration. I have come to the conclusion, therefore, though I adhere to the opinion I expressed in the Standing Committee, that unless such additional provisions were made, it would be better for me not to move the amendment now standing in my name.

The supporters of the Bill were well represented amongst the strangers of the House, and company-pharmacy flooded the lobby to an extraordinary extent.

MAMMOTH SPONGE.—A sponge, 5 feet 6 inches in circumference, has been taken from the water of Bascayne Bay, Florida.

THE LIQUORICE-ROOT CASE.—To-day (Thursday) Mr. James Hamilton, agent for Hotz & Co. at Bussora, gave evidence in this case, and he had not finished when the Court adjourned.

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—The representatives of the chemical and drug trades who were at the annual meeting of the Chamber had a bit of a breeze in reference to the constitution of the Council. Year by year the Council practically re-elects itself, and the malcontents want a change. They succeeded to the extent that new rules are to be drawn up which will permit an infusion of new blood.

THE CAPE PHARMACY BILL.—The London patent-medicine houses are organising an opposition to the clause in the Cape Colony Pharmacy Bill which proposes that every patent or proprietary medicine sold in the colony shall have its exact composition stated thereon, and any person selling a patent medicine without it is to be liable to a penalty of 50L, or six months' imprisonment with hard labour. A meeting of those interested was held at the Holborn Viaduct Hotel on Thursday.